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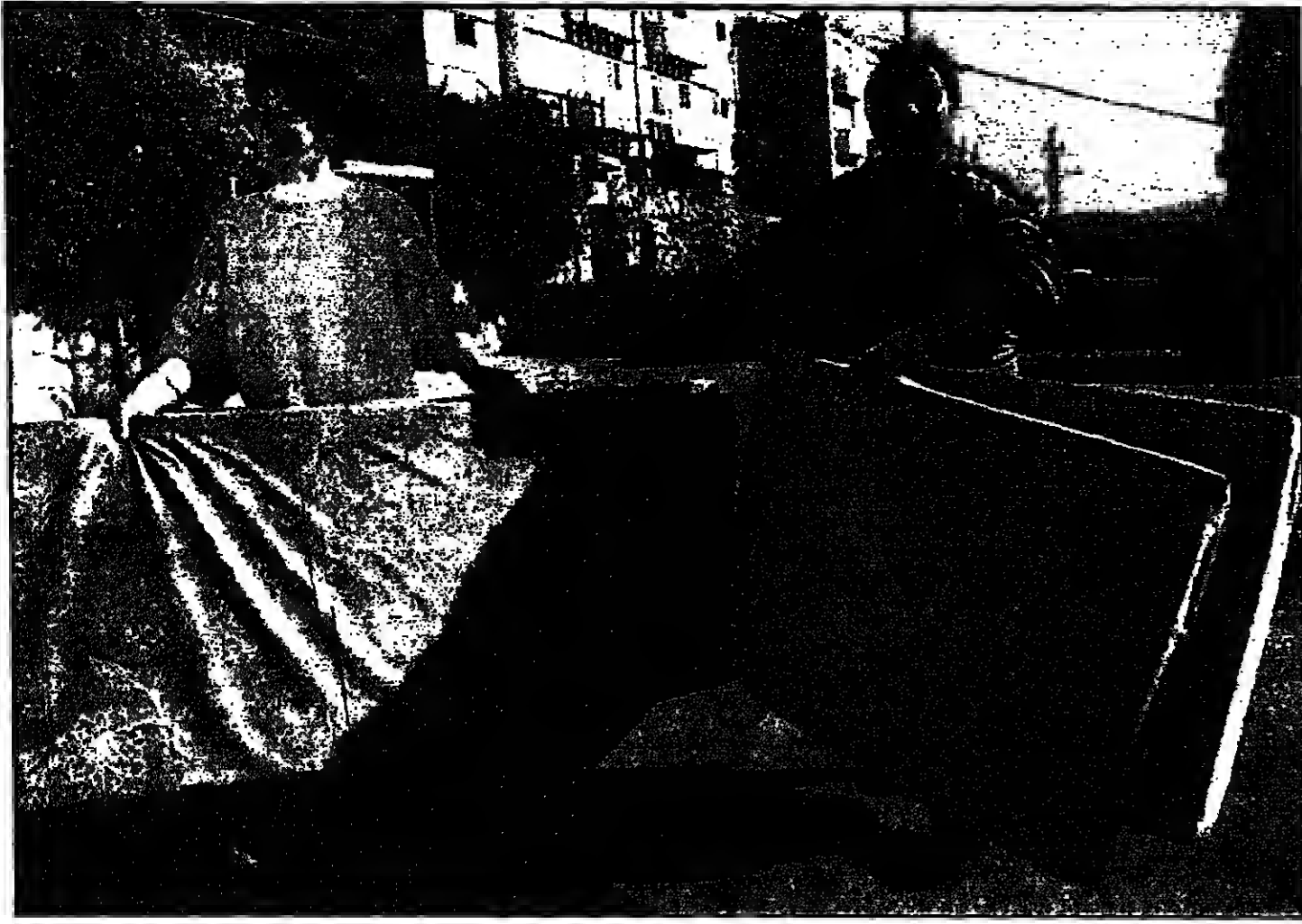
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Ya'alon: IDF never intended to disarm Hizbullah



Kiryat Shmona residents Tamar Suissa and Fanny Harush carry their mattresses from a bomb shelter as they return to their homes yesterday after hearing a cease-fire in Operation Grapes of Wrath had gone into effect. (Reuters)

Operation Grapes of Wrath ends in written accord

UNDER the new agreement reached Friday, the IDF will be able to hit back at Hizbullah in south Lebanon even if the terrorists take shelter in villages there, Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said last night.

Military Intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said Hizbullah survived Operation Grapes of Wrath with its weapons intact and that it had never been the IDF's intention to disarm it.

The understanding announced Friday by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Prime Minister Shimon Peres ended the 17-day Operation Grapes of Wrath. A monitoring group made up of the United States, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and France will supervise the agreement. (Text of agreement, Page 2).

Shahak stressed in a news conference in Tel Aviv last night that the agreement was not a total cease-fire, as Hizbullah can still attack the IDF, or a peace agreement, but that it would bring peace and quiet to northern Isra-

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

el "for a long time."
 "Hizbullah understands that the price it had to pay for the way it behaved is very great," Shahak said, adding this understanding could only be judged over time.
 "I hope and believe that Hizbullah got up this morning and checked the damage it suffered and saw that it caused itself and its surroundings very great harm," Shahak said. "I presume that it understands that the price it will pay should it decide to fire Katyushas will be at least the price it paid this time."
 Shahak said he believed life in the northern Galilee would quickly return to normal.

Ya'alon told reporters that Hizbullah can continue to carry out attacks in the security zone after the operation and after the agreement. "It can continue to fire mortars and Sagger rockets on our positions, shoot anti-aircraft fire on our planes, [and use] suicide bombers and car bombs. We did not harm this capability

of theirs and we did not intend to do so. But it has to think very hard before it violates the agreement when it comes to shooting Katyushas and firing on civilians," Ya'alon said.

Ya'alon said he believed Hizbullah would try to violate the agreement, but that the Syrian and Lebanese governments, as well as the IDF's deterrence, would prevent this.

Maj. Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu, assistant head of IDF Operations, and soon to be OC Afi Force, said the agreement was "reasonable, because the residents of Israel and of south Lebanon are no longer a target. They are not part of the war."

Ben-Eliyahu said the Hizbullah now knew what the price was for violating the understandings of the 1993 Operation Accountability and that the new understandings were "much better."

Ben-Eliyahu said the IDF caused extensive damage to Hizbullah's infrastructure, including their communications and ammunition dumps.

"The only price we paid was (Continued on Page 3)

Northern residents begin return to normal life

NORTHERN border residents emerged from bomb shelters and security rooms yesterday for the first time in more than two weeks, for a breath of fresh air and to the hope of a more secure and peaceful future.

Security forces informed residents that from 8 a.m. - four hours after the cease-fire deadline - they could return home and walk around in the streets.

Thousands of evacuees who left Kiryat Shmona and other towns and villages threatened by Hizbullah's Katyusha rockets,

also began thinking about making the longer journey back home.

The announcement of the cease-fire did not put an end to the fears of residents, especially after the last salvo of rockets on the Galilee Panhandle just five minutes before the cease-fire deadline.

Many evacuees, particularly those from Kiryat Shmona who have been housed in Acre, Netanya and Ashkelon, vowed they

would not return until it was clear the Katyusha threat had passed.

There were also many, including Kiryat Shmona Mayor Prosper Azran and Metulla Local Council Chairman Yossi Goldberg, who expressed skepticism over the new US-brokered agreement and its ability to prevent any more attacks on the North.

"According to what I understand, the killing of our soldiers and SLA soldiers in south Lebanon is allowed again. And if Hiz-

ullah hits them, they cannot fire back. If they do, Katyushas will be fired again on Kiryat Shmona. So what have we accomplished?" Azran said.

Goldberg said "the Hizbullah and the Katyushas are still in the field, and the threat still exists." (Continued on Page 2)

Operation Grapes of Wrath

- 127 residents of the North were injured by Katyushas, 3 moderately or seriously.
- 170-200 Lebanese citizens were killed.
- More than 50 Hizbullah members were killed.
- 10 Syrian and Lebanese soldiers were killed.
- More than 1,400 homes were damaged in the Galilee, 1,200 of them in Kiryat Shmona.
- Hizbullah fired more than 700 Katyushas.
- The IDF fired more than 18,000 shells and the IAF flew more than 1,600 missions.
- Estimated cost of operation - NIS 300 million.
- Estimated damage by Katyushas - NIS 100 million.

Jerusalem Post Staff

This time there is a mechanism to monitor violations

THE US-brokered agreement is virtually the same as the 1993 understandings. The major difference is that now, if Hizbullah decides to violate it, there is a mechanism backed by the US which Israel hopes will prevent the situation from escalating.

"Last time, America was the matchmaker. This time it is the guarantor," said Shlomo Avineri, a professor of political science at Hebrew University. "We are dealing with a novelty here. We don't know how it will work, but the fact that the United States decided to participate in the mechanism signifies an American commitment to the agreement."

After 1993's Operation Ac-

ANALYSIS
ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

countability, anytime Israel felt Hizbullah violated the understandings, Israel could either take it sitting down or fire back, risking a Katyusha attack on the North and further escalation.

Now, said Avineri, this mechanism - which involves Syria, Lebanon, France, the US and Israel - is supposed to pressure those who control Hizbullah to restrain it.

It is not clear whether this mechanism will work, but it is expected to have more power since the United States is behind it.

The US-brokered agreement also drove home the point that even the most minor peace arrangements along Israel's last war front must pass through Damascus for President Hafez Assad's stamp of approval. Indeed, Syria has now emerged from the isolation it was put in following the Sharm el-Sheikh anti-terrorism conference, and is now involved in preventing terror.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres had been careful not to spell out the goals of Operation Grapes of Wrath other than to stop the Katyushas. Peres called the operation a "tremendous achievement for the Israeli army." But the shelling (Continued on Page 2)

PA releases three Hamas prisoners

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Authority has released three Hamas leaders during the past week and others, less senior, are being released as their investigations end, PA Attorney-General Khalid al-Oidrah said last night.

Al-Oidrah said that charge sheets against the first Hamas prisoners to go on trial after the four suicide bombings in late February and early March, will be completed "within three weeks."

The three leaders freed are Hamas spokesman Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, released "six days ago," Ahmed Bahar, an imam, and former negotiator and newspaper editor Sayed Abu Musameh, released yesterday, Al-Oidrah said.

Al-Oidrah said the police have discovered coordination between Islamic Jihad and Hamas and also

"Israeli radicals" which he said had been shown by statements made by Israeli radicals and by Hamas activists. He said he could not elaborate.

The arrest of Adnan-Ghoul, Izzudin Kassam No. 2, would shed light on these connections as well as help in locating Kassam No. 1 Mohammed Deif, he said.

Al-Oidrah said the releases had nothing to do with Id Al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) which begins today, or a feeling of relaxation after passage of the vote to amend the PNC covenant, but only with the progress of legal investigations.

But Rashid Abu Shubac, Preventive Security Service deputy, told Reuters it was a gesture to mark the holiday and "dozens" have been released in the past week. Some 600 of 900 arrested remain in jail.

Ovadia Yosef asks Peres to freeze Hebron pullout

HERB KEINON and Rtm

SHAS spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef on Friday appealed to Prime Minister Shimon Peres to freeze plans for the IDF's redeployment in Hebron until after the elections.

In a letter to the prime minister, Yosef wrote: "Out of deep concern for the welfare of Jewish residents in Hebron, who will find themselves facing Palestinian Police, and out of concern for a renewed outbreak of hatred among Jews over an issue that is hotly debated, I turn to his honor with a special request to freeze any final decision on the issue until after the upcoming elections to the Knesset and the premiership."

Yediot Aharonot reported Friday that troops would leave 85 percent of the Hebron municipal area on May 5. They will then redeploy in the remaining 15 percent of the city, at a ratio of two soldiers per settler, the daily said in its unattributed report.

(Continued on Page 3)



AMERICAN OUTLOOK

There is no American Outlook with today's paper due to technical difficulties beyond our control.

مكتبة القدس

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Clinton: US will not tolerate cease-fire violations

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton stated Friday that the cease-fire announced earlier in the day "will provide greater confidence and greater security" to Israelis and Lebanese.

He warned that the US will not abide a flare-up of the situation again.

The agreement will stop Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel and protect both Lebanese and Israeli citizens. Because it is in writing, this agreement will be less likely to break down than the informal understandings that had been in place since 1993," Clinton told reporters at the White House.

Clinton spoke with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Secretary of State Warren Christopher shortly after the two announced the cease-fire. Peres is due to arrive here this morning for

a three-day visit.

Clinton commended Peres, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Syrian President Hafez Assad and the French government for providing the leadership "which was very much needed to end this crisis."

"Now this agreement will only last if all those who worked with us to bring it about now work to make sure it succeeds. We must not and we will not tolerate new attempts to disrupt the calm which has been reestablished at such a terrible cost."

"I know I speak for all Americans in saying that our thoughts and prayers are with the innocent civilians and their families, in Lebanon and in Israel, who have suffered so much during the last two weeks. Now we must turn again to the hard work of building a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East."

Last-minute Katyushas hurt three in North

DAVID RUDGE

CROSS-BORDER fighting continued until the last minute before the US-brokered agreement came into effect at 4 a.m. yesterday.

Just five minutes before the deadline, Hizbullah fired two final salvos at the Galilee Panhandle. One rocket scored a direct hit on an apartment building in Kiryat Shmona.

The remaining residents were either in bomb shelters or security rooms. There were no casualties, although extensive damage was caused to the building itself.

Dahlia Ben-Simon was among those who had a lucky escape when the last of the Katyusha rockets to be fired during Operation Grapes of Wrath hit the building.

"Everything was quiet until 3:55 a.m., when two salvos shook the town. My sister lives in the building opposite. She and her husband were asleep and their four children were all in the security room when one of the rockets fell," said Ben-Simon.

"There was some damage to their apartment and to the buildings, but rather than somebody being hurt. We were all very

lucky," she said.

The attack just minutes before the cease-fire deadline was evidence of Hizbullah's determination to prove its ability to continue the fight until the bitter end.

About 15 minutes before the announcement of the accord was made simultaneously in Jerusalem and Beirut, Hizbullah also fired a salvo at the Galilee Panhandle.

One rocket hit the roof of an apartment building of Kibbutz Kfar Giladi, causing extensive damage. One woman was treated for shock.

Altogether, Hizbullah fired over 20 rockets from Lebanon from just before the announcement until the cease-fire came into effect. Some fell in the security zone, and in the sea near UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura. Only a few hit the Galilee.

It was the same story earlier on Friday, with Hizbullah continuing to fire rockets despite the progress in the negotiations and ongoing IAF raids and artillery bombardments of launching sites. In one of the salvos Friday morning, a rocket scored a direct hit on a factory in the Kiryat Shmona area, slightly wounding two workers.

Thousands of Lebanese civilians take the crowded road back home

DAVID RUDGE

TENS of thousands of Lebanese civilians began returning to their homes in the south yesterday shortly after the announcement of the US-brokered cease-fire agreement.

Roads leading from Beirut to the towns and villages in the south, which residents fled from after warnings from the IDF of retaliatory action against Hizbullah, were packed with vehicles.

The returnees drove around craters in the roads on the journey, in some cases, to find they had no homes to which to return.

Thousands of buildings were destroyed or damaged during the operation, mainly as a result of

shelling and IAF raids against Hizbullah targets in the vicinity.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said yesterday that the peacekeeping force had recorded a total of 600 air attacks in the areas under its supervision during the operation. This did not include regions to the north and the east, such as Beirut and the Western Bekaa Valley.

During the same period, IDF gunners fired around 25,000 artillery shells at targets north of the security zone, said Goksel.

UNIFIL also recorded a total of 1,200 Katyusha rocket launchings from Lebanon, although not all of



Lebanese civilians jam the highway near Beirut yesterday while trying to return home following the start of the cease-fire ending Operation Grapes of Wrath. See story below.

Text of cease-fire understanding

Following is the text of the "understanding" reached on Friday for the cease-fire in Lebanon:

The United States understands that after discussions with the governments of Israel and Lebanon, and in consultation with Syria, Lebanon and Israel will ensure the following:

1) Armed groups in Lebanon will not carry out attacks by Katyusha rockets or by any kind of weapon into Israel.

2) Israel and those cooperating with it will not fire any kind of weapon at civilians or civilian targets in Lebanon.

3) Beyond this, the two parties commit to ensuring that under no circumstances will civilians be the target of attack and that civilian populated areas and industrial and electrical installations will not be used as launching grounds for attacks.

4) Without violating this understanding, nothing herein shall preclude any party from exercising the right of self-defense.

A Monitoring Group is established consisting of the United States, France, Syria, Lebanon and Israel. Its task will be to monitor the application of the understanding stated above. Complaints will be submitted to the Monitoring Group.

In the event of a claimed violation of the understanding, the party submitting the complaint will do so within 24 hours. Procedures for dealing with the complaints will be set by the Monitoring Group.

The United States will also organize a Consultative Group, to consist of France, the European Union, Russia and other interested parties, for the purpose of assisting in the reconstruction needs of Lebanon.

It is recognized that the understanding to bring the current crisis between Lebanon and Israel to an end cannot substitute for a permanent solution. The United States understands the importance of achieving a comprehensive peace in the region.

Toward this end, the United States proposes the resumption of negotiations between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel at a time to be agreed upon, with the objective of reaching comprehensive peace.

The United States understands that it is desirable that these negotiations be conducted in a climate of stability and tranquility.

This understanding will be announced simultaneously at 1800 hours, April 26, 1996, in all countries concerned.

The time set for implementation is 0400 hours, April 27, 1996.

Repair work beginning in the North as some schools reopen today

DAVID RUDGE

SCHOOLS are due to reopen today in northern towns and villages - with the exception of Kiryat Shmona - following the agreement which took effect early yesterday morning to end the cross-border fighting.

In Kiryat Shmona, which bore the brunt of Hizbullah's Katyusha rocket attacks, the return to classrooms is scheduled to take place tomorrow.

The return to so-called "normal" in the North, however, is likely to take much longer than just a few days, as property tax and other assessors begin the task of evaluating the damage.

The Kiryat Shmona Municipality has estimated that more than 1,200 buildings, including apartments, factories and private businesses, have been

damaged, as well as hundreds of vehicles.

Helicopters were used yesterday to fly over the region and help in the assessment of the overall damage by identifying buildings which have been hit but not reported because the owners or residents are not there.

Property tax assessors are to visit the region today to further help in the task. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat is also due to visit the region as part of the efforts to begin to restore normal life to the region.

Shohat has been appointed by Prime Minister and Defense Minister Shimon Peres to supervise instituting repairs and helping to return life to normal in the region.

As part of this effort, factories in the North which manufacture products for the defense industries have been given approval to go ahead with work without having to submit tenders.

The flow of evacuees returning to towns and villages in the North began yesterday morning and increased in the evening with the conclusion of Shabbat.

"The real war for Kiryat Shmona is starting now - to put the town, residents and businesses back on their feet," said Yoran Even-Tsur, spokesman for the Kiryat Shmona Municipality.

"It's not going to be easy and it is going to take more than a few days to get back to normal. There are many people who are going to

be in shock when they return and find their homes damaged, or even destroyed," he said.

"I am also afraid that there might be some, even many, who have seen how life is elsewhere in the country, and might not want to return at all.

"Not just homes, but livelihoods have been hit - factories and businesses which have been closed for more than two weeks. We all hope that the general expectations, for remuneration and rebuilding and improving the standard and quality of life here after everything the people have been through, will be met.

"The residents of the North and Kiryat Shmona in particular have been in the front line. They deserve to be treated appropriately and that's what they expect," he said.

IDF: decision-making was right in Kana

THE shelling of Kana, in which some 100 civilians were killed, was justified, and the decision-making of the commanders who gave the orders to fire was correct, the IDF team appointed to examine the incident concluded. However, the inquiry found that there were "faults" in the conduct of some commanders on the ground.

The team, headed by OC Artillery Corps, Brig-Gen. Dan Harel, began its examination the day after the April 18 incident. It did not find any faults in the artillery battery, those responsible for operating the battery, the Northern Command firing commander, or in the troops on the ground.

According to the inquiry, the unit came under fire and was justified in making a quick response. Six shells were fired immediately by the artillery, but two unfortunately struck in an area where civilians had concentrated, near the UN camp, where the Hizbullah had fired at the IDF, the inquiry said.

The inquiry also determined that those responsible for the artillery knew of the position of the UN camp, but did not know of the civilians harbored in areas near it who had been crowded into closed structures due to rain that had begun a short while earlier.

That day, the IDF did not send out pilotless planes to examine the area, and did not know what was going on in Kana at that time, as claimed by foreign elements, the team said.

It did not find mistakes which would warrant taking steps against the intelligence officers in Northern Command, who are responsible for relaying information to IDF forces on the ground.

IDF sources said there was apparently a deficiency in the manner in which the commander of the force that came under fire operated. They said the commander's response to the mortars fired at his unit was apparently exaggerated. The commander had said his unit had suffered casualties, but when the smoke cleared it was apparent that there were none.

If the commander had acted more cautiously and carefully it is possible that the shelling would have been carried out more exactly and under greater supervision, the sources said.

Senior IDF sources emphasized, however, that such an assessment was only in retrospect and the team did not have the ability to judge everything. What should be judged, they said, is whether the shelling was justified and was carried out due to a real need, and through a correct decision-making process. Such a process was indeed carried out in every phase, the team said, and therefore steps should not be taken against those involved in the incident. (TIM)

MONITOR

(Continued from Page 1)
of Kana ultimately delivered an unnecessary blow to the IDF's image.

"The incompetence of the IDF stands in sharp contrast to the image they initially tried to portray with the videos of the air attacks and precision bombing," said Dr. Tuvia Ben-Moshe, a political scientist from Haifa University.

"In its pathetic attempt to show force, it not only couldn't stop the Katyushas but it struck back at them, hitting civilians instead."

RESIDENTS

(Continued from Page 1)
Prime Minister Shimon Peres accused Azran of having been hasty in criticizing the agreement.

"Did you read the agreement, Prosper?" Peres asked on an Israel Radio debate. "This is a first-rate agreement. For the first time, there are two partners who acknowledged that they placed restrictions on Hizbullah. They are the only possible partners in the region, Lebanon and Syria."

In Metulla, lawyer Smadar Weinberg, who is married with five children, emerged with her family yesterday.

"I hope, like everybody else, that everything is going to be okay, but like everybody else I'm concerned about the future," she said.

"From what I understand from this agreement, nothing has changed and we are simply returning to the understandings that were reached after Operation Accountability.

"From the legal point of view there is no commitment on the part of Hizbullah, the Lebanese government or the Syrians, to prevent any more attacks.

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To Meir Lahav and Family

Our Condolences on the loss of your

Father

Rose, Henry and the Moskowitz Family, New York

مكتبة دار السلام

Cease-fire draws barrage of opposition criticism

THE cease-fire in the North drew sharp criticism over the weekend from the Likud and the rest of the opposition.

The government was accused of caving in, failing to improve on the unsatisfactory 1993 understandings, having effectively given the green light for assaults on the IDF and bolstering Syria's position.

The assault on the cease-fire was launched Friday evening by Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who maintained that the "government's nerve gave out in the end and the operation failed to achieve the key objectives of disbanding the Hizbullah and winning Syrian guarantees against renewed Hizbullah activities."

"Despite the enormous sacrifice and suffering by the residents of the North and despite the loyal backing of the opposition, the government failed to achieve any of its goals. Instead of Assad's arm being twisted, paradoxically Israel's arm was turned and Assad's position enhanced."

According to Netanyahu "the fact that this agreement is written, unlike the understandings of three years ago, is meaningless. The fact supervisors, including the French, have been introduced to the area will not aid but hinder us and deprive us of freedom of action."

Peres's stance before Assad was "obsequious and he failed to do so much as secure the most minimal condition of no attacks on the IDF. Peres wasted the credit he was given and did not complete the military operation, nor did he adroitly handle the diplomatic side by not insisting on sanctions

SARAH HONIG

against Syria if its aggressiveness continued.

"Worse of all, there is no certainty that there will be quiet along the northern border so long as the Hizbullah emerged from this operation with its fire power undestroyed. The sad fact is that the Hizbullah is still capable of launching rockets into Israel. They are spread out where they were and with yet another agreement which allows them to attack our soldiers, which they will do. Moreover, the agreement creates zones of refuge into which we cannot fire, while the Hizbullah can fire at us from 100 meters outside the perimeter and then run back to the village for cover."

Netanyahu argued that "no one wants to go to war but if an operation is launched and does not achieve its purpose, things get only worse. The pitiful paper Peres negotiated will not restore the sense of personal safety missing in the North and everywhere else in Israel."

Likud MK Ariel Sharon conjectured that "Peres was simply in a great hurry to get some piece of paper that would get him out of Lebanon. He had a date in Washington and could not leave so long as the operation was in progress, so he rushed to end it. The pitiful results he came away with testify to the lack of patience and alacrity with which he conducted the talks."

The Likud responses team issued an official statement last night accusing the government of

having "formally relinquished responsibility for the security of the Galilee to the Syrians and Hizbullah. This is the practical upshot of the shameful agreement Peres contracted."

"Only three weeks only after Peres undertook to improve on the 1993 understandings, which gave birth to the Grapes of Wrath, he tells the residents of the North that from now on they will be hostages to the arbitrariness of Syria and the Hizbullah. Israel's government lacks credibility, backbone and leadership qualities."

Liat Collins adds "Tsomet issued a statement claiming the agreement with Lebanon brought the country and the North back to "an unacceptable situation in which Hizbullah has its finger on the trigger and determines when to open fire. The agreement does not allow Israel to respond because Hizbullah terrorists flee after firing to centers of civilian population."

Tsomet is also demanding to know whether there are secret agreements calling for Israel to withdraw from the security zone. It said the aims of the campaign had not been achieved and the situation for residents in the north had worsened.

The Third Way praised the cease-fire and called on residents of the North to return to normal life there. It also called on the government to compensate residents for the damage sustained.

It called on Prime Minister Shimon Peres to prevent a return to a situation in which residents have to evacuate a town for two weeks.

World praises end to fighting

THE announcement of the cease-fire in Lebanon was met with nearly unanimous praise.

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat yesterday called it "a very important agreement" to halt what he called Israel's aggression against Palestinians and Lebanese.

A senior Palestinian peace negotiator said the cease-fire could spark progress in Israel's sluggish negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians.

Egypt welcomed the cease-fire, saying it hoped the agreement would restart regional peace talks.

"Egypt welcomes the cease-fire that has put a limit to the acts of violence against civilians... and that would enable a return to the negotiating table on the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks," Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said in a statement.

Iran hailed the agreement, saying it left Hizbullah the winner. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said the agreement amounted to the first recognition of Hizbullah's resistance against Israeli occupation.

Velayati, who took part in intensive international efforts in Damascus and Beirut during the last nine days, told a news conference at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus the deal would strengthen Hizbullah.

The Arab League welcomed the cease-fire and said Israel's attacks failed to break the Lebanese resistance.

"The Arab League secretariat expresses its relief that a cease-fire has been reached," it said in a statement.

"It asserts that the brutal Israeli attack on Lebanon... did not affect the spirit, steadfastness and resistance of the Lebanese people."

The league said the way to peace was for Israel to abide by the new agreement and to withdraw from south Lebanon in line with UN Security Council resolution 425.

France said its role in the US-brokered cease-fire marked its return to the Middle East scene after years of "contemptive diplomacy."

Foreign Minister Herve de Charette admitted he felt lonely and had a tough time in his initiation to the region's tricky shuttle diplomacy, but said: "I'm coming home and thinking: mission accomplished for France."

"France can be proud: the agreements which have been signed bear its mark. Its weight and impact in the region are again powerful and respected," he told the daily *Le Parisien*.

Lihya called the cease-fire worthless and said it forced Arabs to make "humiliating concessions."

The cease-fire will solve nothing because it ignores Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, said an editorial carried by the Libyan news agency JANA, which expressed the government's views.

Meretz pleased with cease-fire

MERETZ leaders expressed satisfaction with the cease-fire agreement that brought an end to the fighting in the North, with party leader and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid saying it left Operation Grapes of Wrath with more grapes and less wrath.

"I want to hope that all sides have finally learned that there is nothing more despicable than conducting war on the backs of civilians," he said.

Sarid added that it should now be clear that only a peace treaty with Syria and Lebanon will bring complete quiet to the North, and urged peace negotiations with

Damascus to resume quickly.

Meretz Knesset faction leader Ron Cohen said the cease-fire was the best security-military agreement that could have been obtained, and that as one who had criticized some steps in Grapes of Wrath, "I congratulate the architects of the agreement for achievement."

Cohen said that the agreement provided for a climate in which peace talks could be conducted with Syria "not in the shadow of Katyushas and artillery."

Cohen believes that IDF troops should be withdrawn from the security zone, to be replaced by UNIFIL troops. (Itim)

Arabs win 'hollow' UN condemnation of Israel

Although the Arab states won a vote condemning Israel late Thursday in the General Assembly, it was a hollow victory. The resolution passed 64 to 2, with the US and Israel opposed. However, 65 of the UN's 185 members abstained, and the rest did not cast votes. In effect, then, 121 states declined to condemn Israel.

At the end of a three-day debate, the assembly's resolution condemned the "Israeli military attacks against the civilian population in Lebanon." It called on Israel to cease attacks, withdraw from southern Lebanon, and pay compensation for damage. The text carried no criticism of Hizbullah, which cost the Arab backers of the resolution much of their support.

Marilyn Henry

HIZBULLAH

the cease-fire. Syria, with 35,000 troops in Lebanon, is viewed as key to reining in Hizbullah.

Christopher said Hizbullah would not launch attacks from "civilian populated areas" in south Lebanon. It was not immediately clear what this meant since the Hizbullah gunmen live or move among the local Shi'ite Muslim residents of south Lebanon.

"We have achieved the goal of our mission which was to achieve an agreement that will save lives and end the suffering of people on both sides of the Israeli-Lebanese border. These understandings take us well beyond the oral understanding that I negotiated in July 1993," Christopher said.

Peres said there were no secret clauses to the agreement but he revealed the existence of unpublished understandings.

"There are no secret agreements, there are certain understandings and they will be published at a certain point later on. Every agreement will be put before the Knesset," Peres said.

In a radio interview hours after the guns fell silent across south Lebanon, Peres rejected opposition charges that Operation Grapes of Wrath had achieved nothing at the cost of more than 200 Lebanese lives, mostly civilians.

"This is an agreement of the first magnitude," Peres said, adding that it "to a great extent exceeds our expectations."

Peres said Syria could be trusted to keep its word on agreements "nearly religiously."

"Since Israel signed a cease-fire agreement with Syria in 1974 over the Golan Heights, not one Katyusha rocket or bullet has been fired there," he told Army Radio.

Peres praised Shabak for the "successful end" of Operation



Car enthusiasts look inside a stretched version of an old East German Trabant limousine. Some 50 owners of the now-obsolete car produced in the former East Germany gathered in Berlin yesterday. (Reuters)

Indian general election begins

NEW DELHI (AP) - Indians began voting yesterday in a general election that may defeat a centrist party that has held the diverse country together for decades. An estimated 80 million voters - about 50 percent of those eligible - braved scorching heat in the first phase of voting that will go on for a month, election officials said.

Many polls published before the parliamentary election predicted the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party would finish ahead of the governing Congress Party.

But the surveys also said that no party would win a majority, meaning the president would have to invite the first-place finisher to form a coalition government with smaller parties.

Because voting is staggered over several weeks, preliminary results won't be known until mid-May.

Sonia Gandhi, widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who was assassinated during the last election in 1991, cast her vote without comment. It is her first election since India's first in 1952 that a member of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty was not running.

At the same booth a few minutes earlier, a woman in her 80s was carried by six relatives on a mattress to cast her ballot.

The apparent deadlock among the three main blocs disheartened some voters with the prospect of an unstable coalition. "We may have another election soon," said a 44-year-old real estate agent. Vijay Sharma.

Grapes of Wrath.

"I want to express personally, and in the name of the government of Israel and the entire nation, the deep appreciation of the IDF and to you personally for the remarkable achievements we reached during the days of the operation," Peres said in a statement released by the Defense Ministry.

The cease-fire drew sharp criticism over the weekend from the Likud and the rest of the opposition. The government was accused of having caved in, having failed to improve on the unsatisfactory 1993 understandings, of having in effect given the green light for assaults on the IDF and of having bolstered the Syrian position instead of undercutting it.

Cross-border fighting continued until the last minute before the agreement came into effect.

Just five minutes before the deadline, Hizbullah fired two final salvos at the Galilee Panhandle. One of the rockets scored a direct hit on an apartment building in Kiryat Shmona.

OVADIA

(Continued from Page 1)

The letter from Yosef in Peres culminated weeks of intense lobbying by Hebron settlement leaders in the haredi community.

Explaining the lobbying of the haredim, Hebron settlement leader Noam Arnon said, "Peres needs the haredi votes, he needs to take their wishes into account."

The meeting with Yosef and with the Council of Sages centered around what Arnon said is the real and immediate danger in Hebron's Jews if the IDF redeployments.

"The reality is that the redeployment is a dangerous plan," Arnon said. "The city is known as a Hamas center."

Voting took place yesterday in the states of Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu; the union territories of New Delhi and Pondicherry; and two chains of islands in the south. With the temperature soaring to 38°C long lines formed outside polling stations in schools and other public buildings. In villages, sheds and stables were cleared of animals and turned into makeshift stations.

Nearly half of India's 590 mil-

lion voters are illiterate, so each ballot contained the name of the candidates and symbols alongside them such as a banana, whistle, baby, or a sun.

Indelible ink was placed on the left forefinger of voters to prevent them from casting other ballots.

If a BJP coalition takes power, it is expected to step up India's arms race with Pakistan, reduce the rights of the Moslem minority, and slow down some of the foreign investment that free-market reforms have attracted.

The BJP also has promised to fight widespread corruption in India and be more efficient than Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who often was indecisive and plagued by party infighting.

But its nationalist agenda would depend on how many seats it wins in Parliament and what alliances it must form in a coalition.

As voting began, many voters lining up in East New Delhi said they would vote for the BJP, even though they aren't sure what it would do in power.



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UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali accepts a check from South African President Nelson Mandela for the UN High Commissioner for refugees in Pretoria on Friday as celebrations marking two years of South Africa's move to majority rule got under way.

South Africa celebrates second year of democracy

WITH world leaders watching and military commanders saluting, President Nelson Mandela led national celebrations yesterday on the second anniversary of South Africa's historic all-race election that ended apartheid.

But the brutal murder of a Zulu princess and a currency crisis undermined the country's political and economic progress.

A nationally televised ceremony attended by UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, King Hussein of Jordan and others in town for a major United Nations conference was the main event on Freedom Day, a national holiday.

Mandela, wearing one of the colorful casual shirts that have become his trademark, praised his compatriots for their achievements the past two years and called for further commitment to the common good of the country.

He thanked the UN Conference on Trade and Development for meeting in South Africa beginning yesterday, saying the host role showed that "as a nation, we have become an equal and proud participant in world affairs."

"Freedom Day comes at a time when we are making progress on all fronts to build South Africa into a land of our dreams," said the upbeat Mandela.

Blacks and whites, children and adults, clowns and animals paraded in sunshine through the conservative city where many apartheid laws to segregate the races were administered.

Air force jets flew in formation overhead, parachutists descended into a cloud of balloons in the multi-colours of the new South African flag and choirs sang the national anthem.

"We pledge to continue contributing, in our own humble way, to peace and development in

southern Africa, in Africa and further afield," Mandela said.

A parade of police and military vehicles passed by, and an African praise singer in tribal dress delivered a lengthy recitation.

Two years ago, on April 27, 1994, millions of South Africans stood in long lines to cast votes in the nation's first all-race election. Mandela's African National Congress won to make him the first black president after 300 years of white domination and 46 years of apartheid rule.

Among the achievements since then noted by Mandela was the drafting of a new constitution expected to be adopted on May 8.

Mandela and Deputy President F.W. de Klerk, who shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating the end of apartheid, were scheduled to meet today to try to resolve lingering disputes between the ANC and de Klerk's white-led National Party on some constitutional issues.

Despite the disputes, Mandela said he expected the constitution to be completed as scheduled.

"Like any truly historic act of creation, this has not been and will not be easy," he said.

Problems were apparent yesterday with news that a niece of the Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini had been backed to death in an attack the ANC says was political.

The royal family identified the body of 35-year-old Princess Nonhlanhla Zulu who was found on a soccer pitch near a modest royal palace where one of Zwelithini's five queens

and her entourage were attacked and seriously wounded Friday.

The ANC pinned the attack on the rival Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, whose leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has fallen out with his uncle the king, accusing him of siding with Mandela. Inkatha denied responsibility.

An all-party task force is to recommend next week whether May 29 local elections in KwaZulu-Natal province, put off last November because of ANC-Inkatha violence, should be postponed again.

Foreign exchange dealers have listed the turbulence in the province as a major factor in the rand's collapse against the dollar that has harmed the economy. The rand has fallen 18 percent against the dollar since mid-February.

To stop the rot, the Reserve Bank said it was raising its commercial bank lending rate to 16 from 15 percent.

Confidence has also been shaken by a strike called next week by South Africa's largest labor federation, Cosatu, to protest at plans to enshrine the right to worker lock-outs in the new constitution, due to be finalized in May.

Strapped for cash, Mandela's government has been criticised for spending two million rand (NIS 1.35 million) on the Freedom Day party and not on homes and schools for poor blacks.

But ministers said every cent that fostered reconciliation of a nation divided by decades of apartheid was well spent.

"Unity in Diversity" was the theme of the celebrations for what Mandela has called his "Rainbow Nation", all of whom, he said, had been apartheid's victims in one way or another.

News agencies
PRETORIA

Yeltsin ends cordial visit to China

SHANGHAI (AP) - Ending a visit that highlighted increasingly cordial ties with China, Russian President Boris Yeltsin left here yesterday for Kazakhstan.

During his visit, which began Wednesday, Yeltsin and Russian government ministers traveling with him signed 14 bilateral agreements in Beijing, including one setting up a hotline between Beijing and Moscow.

Yeltsin joined President Jiang Zemin and the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan and Tajikistan in Shanghai, China's largest city.

There they signed a military agreement reducing tension along the 7,500-km Chinese border.

The product of four years of negotiations, the document stipulates that border troops will not attack or carry out military exercises threatening the other side.

It also restricts military exercises in scale, scope and frequency, and requires each side to inform the other of any military activity within 100 km of the border.

In statements following the

signing, the presidents called the agreement "epoch-making," "unprecedented" and "historic." They clasped hands in a group handshake and clinked glasses in a champagne toast.

But Yeltsin said the agreement was only the first step, and called on the parties to begin work on reducing border troop strength.

Kazak President Nursultan Nazarbayev said it was a step toward setting up a common Asian market.

China shares a 4,300-km border with Russia, 1,700 km with Kazakhstan, 1,000 km with Kirgizstan and 500 km with Tajikistan.

Yeltsin, in Shanghai for the first time, packed in a busy day visiting the showcases of China's economic reforms, including the city's Pudong economic development zone. He also addressed 200 Chinese and Russian businessmen and peppered Shanghai's mayor with questions about the city's reform measures.

"I want to study Shanghai's experience in more detail. What I have

seen so far is very impressive," Yeltsin told The Associated Press.

Responding to Communist opponents at home who have criticized Russia's own economic reforms, Yeltsin said, "Our Communists... are fanatics. But here, they are pragmatists."

Yeltsin's visit was carefully choreographed to highlight warming relations between Beijing and Moscow, whose Communist leaders broke off ties for three decades beginning in the late 1950s because of ideological differences.

This was Yeltsin's second visit to China in five years and his third summit with Jiang.

The two leaders clearly have developed a rapport. Yeltsin whispered to Jiang during the signing ceremony and tried to help the Chinese president put on his earphone to hear the simultaneous translation.

However, that rapport did not win Yeltsin the agreement he sought from China to halt all nuclear testing as part of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Canadian police quell jail riot

WINNIPEG (AP) - After more than 300 prisoners turned themselves in, police marched into a riot-demolished cellblock and took the final eight holdouts into custody.

The detentions early yesterday ended a day-long standoff that injured dozens of people and trashed Manitoba's largest jail.

The rest of the 321 prisoners had surrendered earlier and were either transferred to other jails or to medical centers for treatment.

Inmates took over Headingly provincial jail Thursday night when they overpowered guards who were conducting a search for drugs, police said. At least eight guards were beaten and hospitalized. None of the injuries were life-threatening.

The prisoners set fires and destroyed equipment. They seized drugs from the infirmary and used hammers and makeshift clubs to attack other inmates.

One man had his fingers cut off during the rebellion, said Brian Robinson, police site commander at the jail. He discounted earlier reports of death and castration.

"The stories of castration are incorrect," he said. "Some people have received minor cuts and scratches in the groin area."

He said the burned-out jail would not open for at least a month. "There's no light, there's no heat and there's lots of damage and water, burnt mattresses, burnt clothing," he said. "When you walk in the area you're in three to four inches of water."

Manitoba Justice Minister Rosemary Vorey praised police and corrections officers for their work and promised that the ring-leaders would be punished.

"It is my fervent expectation that those responsible will be brought to justice with the full force of the law."

Headingly provincial jail, located 10 km west of Winnipeg, Manitoba's capital, houses convicts serving sentences of less than two years for crimes such as theft and assault, or inmates awaiting trial for serious crimes such as murder.

Police said there were rival gangs in the prison, but this uprising appeared to target prisoners segregated for sex crimes or because they are informants.

Onassis auction raises \$34.5 million

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The celebrity sale of the century ended with buyers throwing caution, frugality and probably common sense to the winds to pay sky-high prices for anything once owned by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

You like pillows, Jackie liked pillows. Three of her pillows - worth \$50 - went for \$23,500 in a Sotheby's auction that in four days raised up \$34.5 million in sales.

The auction house originally estimated the sale would bring in \$4 million and had to admit it underestimated the drawing power of the one of the century's most admired women.

Sotheby's President Diana Brooks declared that there had never been any sale like this one as bidders battled each other to buy a bit of history.

Two simple rocking chairs, used by President John F. Kennedy to ease his severe back pain, sold collectively for just under \$1 million dollars in the sale of 1,301 items that all swarmed - no matter how humbly or obliquely - of the Kennedy "Camelot" mystique.

There was probably no other way to explain why someone paid \$48,975 for a silver-plated tape mea-

sure bought by the first lady in 1965.

A set of MacGregor golf clubs with a red and black golf bag inscribed "JFK Washington D.C." sold for \$772,500. It was bought by a Republican actor with a Kennedy tie - Austrian-born musician Arnold Schwarzenegger who is married to a niece of the late president, Maria Kennedy Shriver.

Black and white photographer, who makes \$15 million per picture, also bought a diamond drawing of JFK by Norman Rockwell for \$124,000 and spent another \$189,500 for a leather desk set used by him.

But he was not the biggest spender of the sale - that honor went to ketchup king, Tony O'Reilly, the chairman of Heinz, who spent \$2.6 million for a 40-carat diamond ring as a birthday present for his wife.

Songwriter Carol Bayer Sager paid \$453,000 for one rocking chair. The other went for \$442,500. She planned to give it to her fiancé.

After the sale ended, Brooks paid tribute to Jackie O, saying: "The success of this auction does not belong to Sotheby's. It belongs to Mrs. Onassis, her grace and style, her dignity and courage."

In 1994, Customs officers seized 2,040 kg of elephant tusks worth 200 million Taiwan dollars (NIS 22.2 million) in a warehouse in the northern port of Keelung, in the biggest ever ivory seizure in Taiwan.

Taiwan has cracked down on the smuggling of wildlife contraband in recent years, prompting the United States to lift sanctions on the import of wildlife products from the island last year.

Two years ago, the legislature raised the maximum jail term for those trading in illicit wildlife products from five to seven years.

Six killed as Japanese media helicopters collide

TOKYO (AP) - Two news helicopters covering a forest fire collided, crashed and burned yesterday morning, killing all six people aboard, officials said.

The accident occurred at 5:42 a.m. near the Chikuma River within the boundaries of the city of Nagano, 179 km northwest of Tokyo. Hiroto Suzuki of the Nagano Prefectural (state) Police, said.

Suzuki said of the six killed, two were aboard a helicopter used by Nagano Broadcasting Systems, while four were on board one used by T.V. Shinshu Broadcasting. Both companies are regional television stations

serving Nagano.

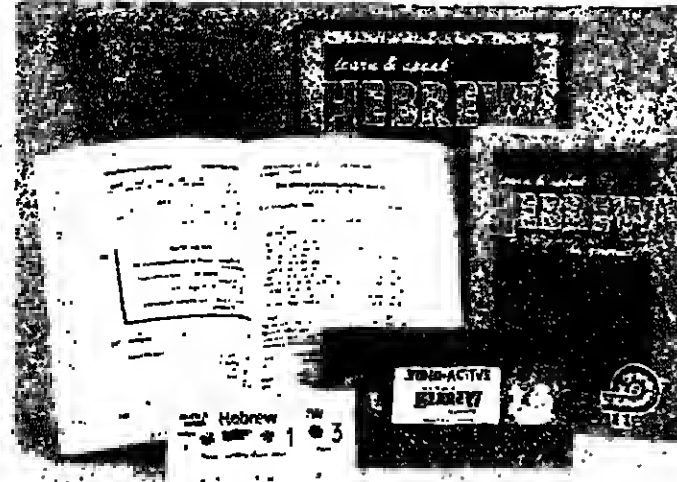
Keigo Yamaguchi, a spokesman for Nagano Broadcasting, said it wasn't clear if the crash occurred during the coverage of the fire or afterward while his network's helicopter was on its way back.

Masanao Nakajima, an official with T.V. Shinshu, said the helicopter used by his company was in the midst of covering the fire when the collision occurred.

Nagano will host the 1998 Winter Olympics.

On Friday all six people died aboard a small plane that crashed while landing in bad weather on the northern island of Hokkaido.

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Sunday June 9 **ANCIENT SYNAGOGUES OF GALILEE**

After Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 CE, Jewish leaders fled to Eretz Yehuda and, after the Bar Kochba rebellion, to Galilee, where Jewish life began to flourish again. The tour leaves from Jerusalem, and picks up in Tel Aviv. Then we visit the Arbel, Tibertias, Kfar Nahum, and Peki'in. The tour guide is Yoni Shepliro, and the cost, which includes entrance to all sites, a full lunch, and transportation in air-conditioned coaches, is NIS170.

Reservations and further information: SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074 Tel: 02-666231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) Ask for Romit, Tami or Varda

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Jerusalem unveils its version of Silicon Valley

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

IF Jerusalem is not doomed to be a poor city of government clerks, yeshiva students and Arab laborers, more projects like the Manhat (Malha) Technology Park will be needed to catapult the capital into a 21st-century center of advanced, non-polluting industry.

Within five years, 3,000 highly educated and imaginative staffers will be working in 80,000 square meters of space at the park — buildings faced with Jerusalem stone and set with jewel-like, blue-green windows that look like luxury hotels. Nearly a year after the first building was occupied, there are already 800 employees in 19 high-tech companies.

The 60-dunam complex is located in a scenic valley in southeast Jerusalem, plinked right across the street from the biggest shopping center in the Middle East, Malha's Jerusalem Mall, and within earshot of the howling siamang monkeys at the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo and a soccer ball's throw from Teddy Stadium.

Hundreds of participants in the Israel Bonds Jerusalem 3000 mission were bused in to Malha last week to attend the official opening ceremony of the technology park. Much more interesting than the speeches and even more breathtaking than the fireworks were the encounters between the foreign visitors and the high-tech entrepreneurs who received them in their attractive offices.

Newsweek, which earlier this month devoted two pages to citing Israel as the "only rival to California's Silicon Valley outside the US," could have chosen any of the Malha companies to prove that Israelis are on the "leading edge" of industrial technology.

One company is in fact a subsidiary of California's famed Silicon Graphics Inc., which offers interactive three-dimensional graphics, digital media, animation and supercomputing technologies and has run up \$2 billion a year in sales.

The Israeli start-up firm is Silicon Graphics Biomedical Ltd. (SGB), whose managing director is Dr. Michael Betman, an Israeli who returned home from

California to head the company. A tenth of the shares are held by the Jerusalem Development Authority, which initiated the technology park.

The 12,000-employee mother company in California established the Jerusalem subsidiary to specialize in biological and medical fields, using Silicon Graphics hardware and software to develop generic technologies and tools for new industries.

According to project manager Dr. Ofer Shohat, these include the development of pharmaceuticals using three-dimensional computer illustrations of molecules; teaching surgeons and medical students using three-dimensional simulations of the human body; and trans-

lating magnetic resonance instrument (MRI) and computerized tomography (CT) scans into three-dimensional images for diagnosing tumors and other disorders.

The company is also working in the rapidly emerging field of computerization of medical data for hospitals and clinics. Another promising area is telemedicine, in which doctors in one city or county will be able to diagnose or even treat diseases in patients far away, using videoconferencing and computer images of scans transmitted over high-speed telecommunications lines.

The Silicon Graphics work-stations are so powerful that with a slight move of the mouse, the user can twirl around a graphic depic-

tion of the human cranium and see its insides from all angles. Click the mouse, and fat and brain tissue are added on to the bone; these images can be sliced at any angle for an accurate anatomical view.

ONE OF SGB's neighbors is Ben-Zvi Printing Enterprises, originally founded near Mea She'arim in 1929 by the father of the company's current managing director Nahum Ben-Zvi. An outgoing man who grew up with a linotype machine, Ben-Zvi moved his press from a factory in Givat Shaul to offices in Malha that lack even a smudge of ink.

"Instead of printing, I wanted to concentrate on the computer aspect of the printing industry. This

means preparing text and graphics in a large variety of languages for printing here and mostly abroad," Ben-Zvi explains.

The company prepares for press scientific books and journals in the natural sciences, medicine, mathematics, the humanities and Jewish studies. "As a country of immigrants, it's very easy for me to find highly qualified translators, editors and proofreaders. It's worth the while of a company in Switzerland, for example, to send us the hard-copy text for preparation, with the illustrations in place, for them to print the final product."

Ben-Zvi uses powerful Suo work-stations to process the material, which often includes abstruse mathematical formulas and scien-

tific diagrams that almost no one else can handle.

ANOTHER start-up company in the technology park is GenTec Ltd., whose chief executive officer, Jacob Davidson, is a new-immigrant lawyer from the US and whose chief scientist, Alexander Rosen, is a recent immigrant from the CIS.

The six-month-old company is specializing in smart cards, which Davidson regards as "a tiny personal computer — minus the screen and keyboard." These credit card-like pieces of plastic contain chips that can store and process records, electronic money and thousands of other bits of data.

Davidson expects the market for

smart cards will grow geometrically in the coming years, as they replace credit cards and store personal records and other data. One merely has to "fill" the cards with money from your bank account, via an on-line automated cash machine, and use it to buy a newspaper or a pizza, pay one's bills and order merchandise.

Most smart cards today require metal-to-metal contact (i.e., the metal strip on credit cards). GenTec has developed cards that instead use magnetic waves or alternating capacitors for trouble-free use, without metal contact.

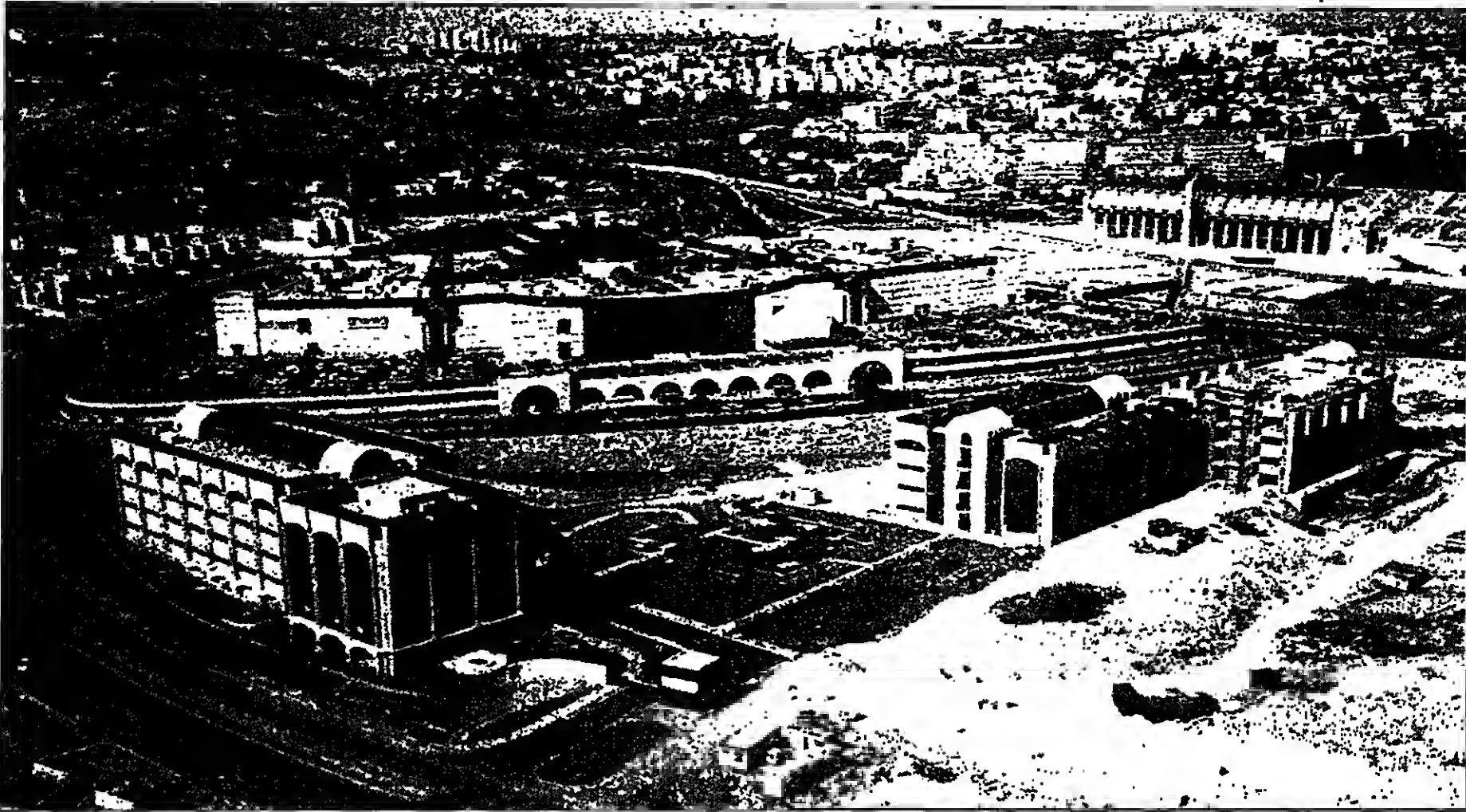
The cards can also be used to allow access to workplaces and high-security locations using biometrics: place your eyeball over a sensor, and the device will read the pattern of the blood vessels in the retina; if the pattern matches that on the smart card, the door opens.

A Chicago accountant and real-estate man who invested in the problem-ridden Internet provider Netmedia International decided to buy the company and establish it in Jerusalem. Shalom Meora recently opened the firm in Malha's technology park.

Meora, who has moved with his young family to the Har Nof quarter of Jerusalem, says the number of Internet subscribers he has is "growing by over 50 percent per month." The business consists of 25 to 30 computer experts who make sure that the servers are functioning well and who provide customer support around the clock.

"There are much bigger companies, but our subscribers are very happy because they get trouble-free access to all parts of the Internet. We have a local phone number for access from all area codes in Israel."

All of the park's residents praise the location, saying the comfortable and pleasant surroundings facilitate their work. Recognized as a "development area A," investors get loans and grants from the government, and the reservoir of qualified personnel is immense. What they most hope for is to grow so much that they'll need more space than that available even in Malha.



The 80,000 square meter Manhat Technology Park (two buildings in foreground) is expected to house 3,000 workers within five years.

Ants have a knack of finding food

HOW do ants manage to always find food on a kitchen counter quickly? How do an army of them find their way through a maze of three within minutes? Do they "talk" to each other? Abigail, Tel Aviv.

Dr. Jacob Klug, a chemist at Ben-Gurion University's applied research institutes who specializes in communications among insects, replies:

"Ants, like a number of other types of insects, have a strong sense of smell. Living in a developed social framework, they send out scouts that find food. They are programmed not only for their own survival, but for that of the group. Once they have located a good meal, they produce a chemical called a trail pheromone from a gland in their body. As they walk to and from their target, they leave a trail of this chemical on the ground, just as Hansel and Gretel left pieces of bread to find their way in the forest. Other ants smell the pheromone and find their way to the food.

Each species produces its characteristic pheromone and has appro-

TELL ME WHY
JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

prize pheromone receptors in the brain. If you see ants moving in lines on the ground, disrupting the dirt will make them confused as they will have lost their pheromone trails. Termites also leave such trails.

In the kitchen, wiping the trail with soap will eliminate the pheromone, but if another ant finds food, it will quickly produce a new trail.

Why must the plastic bottles used to make soda be changed on the date printed on the side, even if they are not used frequently or haven't been used for a long time? Ork, Tel Aviv.

Dan Frier, sales manager of the Soda Club company, answers:

"Making soda at home using our Soda Club machine is economical and environmentally friendly. The plastic bottles that are inserted are made from a very strong plastic called PET, and their working life is two-and-a-half to three years. We recommend to users that they treat

the bottles with care, and not beat or scratch them or put them in dishwasher. They are very resilient and can withstand hundreds of infusions of gas each year. Each bottle is marked with the date at which it should be replaced. The cost is just NIS 15.90 (and until the end of April there is a two-for-one offer).

Glass objects tend to break, but plastic ones don't, so people naturally tend to keep plastic containers for a long time. But even plastic gets scratched under normal use, so, because the gas pressure is high, we limit its functional life. We check stores' stock regularly to ensure that bottles aren't kept in stock for a long time. Stop making soda with it after the expiry date, but you can continue to use it for other things, such as keeping water in the refrigerator. If a bottle is deformed or shows cracks, it should be thrown out immediately. Since it is hard to remember how many times it has been used over a period of time, we advise observing the expiry rule no matter how fre-

quently you make soda.

Why, when the picture of a working computer screen or a TV set is broadcast on your television set, does the screen flicker? Jerry, Jerusalem

Rafi Yehoshua, an engineer at TV Channel 1, comments:

"The picture on a TV or computer screen is created by line after line of pixels (color elements) being shot at the screen by an electronic 'gun.' The number of lines varies according to the size and type of screen and of the TV camera taking the picture. Thus there is usually no synchronization between the lines of the picture you see and the lines on your own TV set. This causes the flicker-
ing."

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem, or fax it to (02) 389527. Please include your first name and place of residence. Calls will not be accepted.

Nobel Prize comes to multimedia

JEWES boast about the large number of their co-religionists who have won the Nobel Prize. Now they can see and hear them in a unique multimedia project at Ben-Gurion University.

The interactive computerized material is available in Hebrew, English and French, and includes a database of thousands of titles, photographs, films, authentic recordings and graphic material listed by the name, country or field of each laureate. The project was edited and developed by BGU historian Dr. Eli Ben-Gal, with help from the late scientist and controversial thinker, Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz.

The project covers Jewish laureates from around the world. The lobby of the main Zalman Aranne Library at the BeerSheva university has been equipped with computers containing the program. With the press of a few keys, an encyclopedic amount of information can be obtained on the prize winners, their era and accomplishments.

"If, for example, one writes 'Agmon,' one will see pictures of his birthplace in eastern Galicia, Germany between the two World Wars, Jerusalem in the Forties, and his life and works. There is also a film of his conversation with the king of Sweden who presented him with the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Ben-Gal, who was for 20 years chief historian of Beth Hatenutzot, says the material was collected by a team of researchers from archives, institutions, the Library of Congress and the private collections of laureates. Access to the material is free to students, lecturers and the general public. It will also be supplied to any academic institution around the world that wants to use it.

The project was initiated and supported by Marcel Bleustein-Blanchet, owner of the pioneering French advertising company Publicis, who died two weeks ago at the age of 89, and did not have the privilege of attending the opening a week later.

WEEDING OUT WEEDS
The yields of experimental plots for growing corn in Kenya have

NEW WORLDS
POST SCIENCE REPORTER

tripled, thanks to an innovative weed-fighting strategy developed by a Weizmann Institute scientist together with Kenyan researchers.

Reported recently at the Sixth Parasitic Weed Symposium in Cordoba, Spain, the experiments focused on eradicating the parasitic weed *Striga hermonthica* (witchweed), which ravages grain crops in a number of places around the world, especially sub-Saharan Africa. About 100 million farmers lose half their yields to this thriving weed; in Kenya alone, it infests 80,000 hectares planted with corn, causing an annual loss of some \$10 million. The weeds also have an indirect but harmful effect on the environment, because farmers often encroach upon nature reserves in search of uninfested land. Witchweed thrives by attaching itself to the root of a suitable host crop. It sends a "feed me" signal to the host and consumes not only the crop's energy but most of the soil's fertilizer and water as well.

Until now, there has been no effective way to control parasitic weeds, says Prof. Jonathan Gressel of the institute's department of plant genetics. African farmers usually pull them out by hand, but by the time they emerge above the ground, they have already sapped the crop. Herbicides are ineffective for the same reason, and they also enter the food chain.

Gressel's innovating solution relies on a new use for a certain type of corn that has been biotechnologically developed in the US. The corn has a gene conferring resistance to herbicide and is thus not harmed when sprayed with it. Instead of spraying entire fields, he suggested taking seeds that are resistant to the herbicide and soaking them in it before planting. Once the plants sprout from the seeds, the parasites unwittingly devour the weed-killing chemical from the crop roots or soil and die. By the time the crops ripen, the weed-killer has disappeared and does not affect the food supply. Scientists from the Kenyan

Agricultural Research Institute in Kisumu have tested this approach for five crop seasons, and, witchweed infestation was dramatically reduced.

CD-ROM FOR STARRY-EYED KIDS

Young children are naturally fascinated with nature — animals, plants, the stars and the weather. Now, a new CD-ROM for youngsters aged four to eight explains nature's principles in an enjoyable way.

Called Boker Or, the NIS 129 disk, produced by software company Keshet Orion, explains concepts relating to the sky, sun, clouds, colors, directions, shadows, heat and light. Users become junior scientists, making guesses, explaining phenomena, classifying things and investigating problems. The company developed the program over a period of three years with experts from the Center for Education and Scientific Research at the Jordan Valley College.

Boker Or is the first in Keren Orion's Milky Way series of educational software for explaining science to children. Future programs to be released will deal with space, and the sky, the transition from day to night, and star constellations. Without realizing he is learning, the child follows colorful animations, and video films and participates in games using the mouse.

CANCER ASS'N ON LINE

The Israel Cancer Association is one of the latest local voluntary organizations to establish a homepage on the Internet's World Wide Web. It was initially established in English, but a Hebrew version will follow. The latest information on the association's activities in information, research, support for patients and their families, the purchase of medical equipment and special projects is listed.

Users may also make donations to the association via the site, which was established free by the Gitan/BDDO public relations company and Ventura. The address is: WWW.cancer.org.il.

The idyllic life of kibbutz, moshav doctors

SERVING as a kibbutz or moshav physician sounds like an idyllic existence, but a study of 46 doctors in that situation feel sometimes that they're serving a life sentence. Conducted by researchers at the departments of family medicine at the Tel Aviv University and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the study was published in the latest issue of the Israel Journal of Medical Sciences.

Aged 35 to 45, a majority of them men, the physicians attended "focus groups," in which they were asked about the boundaries between their private and professional lives, the expectations of their patients, work satisfaction, impact on their families and burnout.

Many of the country doctors complained that since they lived with the people they treated, they were often treated as a piece of communal property.

One physician recalled that when a horse suffered a head injury, he was called to the emergency because they didn't want to disturb the veterinarian at 3 p.m. during his siesta.

The most common complaint was the lack of clear boundaries between his job and his private life. They were disturbed all day, every day — even on Shabbat — to treat minor conditions.

The boundary problem also led patients to be embarrassed over intimate examinations. Doctors were reluctant to perform breast examinations to screen women for cancer, and a female doctor who had joined the local kibbutz choir said some choir members had stopped coming to discuss their personal or intimate problems. People were offended if the doctor didn't ask how they were when they met in the communal dining room.

Rural clinics generally provided much work satisfaction, however, as the doctor was able to provide "whole-person, whole-family" care instead of referring many cases to other specialists or institutions. But limited to a small patient group, many doctors felt restless and wanted to move on after five years or so. Very few knew of any rural physician who had worked in one place for more than 20 or 30 years.

Doctors considering work in a rural setting should be aware of the pitfalls as well as the

HEALTH SCAN
POST HEALTH REPORTER

rewards, the authors conclude. They must investigate whether they will fit in and should consult colleagues before deciding.

GETTING OLDER BUT NOT BETTER

The percent of people over the age of 75 smokers, while 28% smoked in the past but kicked the habit, according to an epidemiological study released recently. In addition, elderly men are nearly twice as likely to smoke as elderly women, says the study by the Association for Planning and Development of Services for the Elderly (Eshel) and Joint-Israel.

Eshel estimates that the number of people in Israel over 65 will rise within the next nine years by 25%, from 520,000 to 648,000.

The survey was conducted by Sheba Hospital researchers among 1,820 old people. A fifth of the women and almost a third of the men exercise, like walking and swimming. Two-thirds of those interviewed saw a doctor at least once during the month before they were queried. The most common physical complaint was arthritis or rheumatism, followed by hypertension, heart disease, digestive disorders and urological problems.

Symptoms of depression were much more common among women (56.8%) than men (29.4%). Nearly a quarter of the group complained about vision problems, while nearly a fifth about hearing difficulties. Nearly a quarter needed help to dress and bathe, and women are more physically limited than the men.

HEARING DOWN UNDER

Surgeons should be careful what they say while operating. Dutch researchers have found that patients can remember simple words they heard while under general anesthesia. According to a report in Research Reports from the Netherlands, scientists at Erasmus University in Rotterdam tested 240 patients who underwent surgery at nearby St. Clara's Hospital.

While each patient was under general anesthesia, a tape of a person reading simple words was

played once for each patient. After the operation, they were presented with the first syllable of a word and asked to complete it by giving the first word that came to mind. Most of them gave the word that had been on the tape.

According to the researchers, the experiment showed that patients were unable to consciously remember words they had heard under anesthesia, but if given certain characteristics of the word, such as the first syllable, they were more likely to name it than any other word starting with the same syllable, even 24 hours after the operation.

The explanation for this phenomenon is not completely clear. When hearing a word during the operation, its representation in memory is activated and information processing takes place at the unconscious level. Patients seem to "listen in" during their operation, making them very susceptible to any negative or insulting remarks. So doctors: don't discuss their chances of survival... or their medical bills.

NORPLANT AVAILABLE

A number of hospitals have received Health Ministry approval to insert Norplant implants, which serve as an effective contraceptive for up to five years. Norplant consists of six tiny tubes that are inserted under the skin in a minor operation on the inner part of the upper arm. They release progesterone continuously in minute quantities to delay ovulation and the thickening of the cervical mucus so it becomes impregnable to sperm. After its removal, its contraceptive effects end and the woman may become pregnant.

The private Assuta Hospital in Tel Aviv says its gynecologists have been specially trained and certified to perform Norplant insertions and removals. The cost of the implant is NIS 836, while the charge for the procedure is NIS 464.

Although Norplant is considered a viable alternative for women who can't take contraceptive pills or use an intrauterine device, a senior Jerusalem gynecologist predicted that it would not be widely popular, because it may cause unscheduled, periodic bleeding; this will discourage observant Jewish women from using it because of family purity requirements.



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The agreement

IT is hardly surprising that Prime Minister Shimon Peres and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher have proclaimed victory after obtaining an agreement with Syria for a partial cease-fire on the Lebanon border. Operation Grapes of Wrath was not a picnic. For 16 days Israel pounded Lebanon with artillery and air power, causing 160 fatalities, mostly civilian. More than 20,000 Israelis and 200,000 Lebanese have had to leave their homes and seek shelter. In Israel, 1,450 homes and several plants and installations have been hit. The damage in Lebanon has not yet been assessed, but it surely runs into billions.

To end it all without declaring that the results are satisfactory is to admit that the operation — and the often humiliating diplomatic pilgrimages to Damascus by Christopher and other foreign ministers — have been in vain.

The only positive aspect of Grapes of Wrath is that it has caused no Israeli deaths and that of the 60 who were wounded, only two suffered serious injury. But the tragedy in Kana, where 106 Lebanese civilians were killed as a result of an artillery error, has caused untold damage to Israel's image and undoubtedly intensified the hatred of the Lebanese for Israel.

With the guns and rockets silenced, it is tempting to join Peres and Christopher in their jubilation, but the written (though unsigned) agreement is at best a return to the status quo ante. That it is now a written document rather than a verbal understanding is hardly an improvement. What was wrong with the 1993 understandings was not that they were subject to varied and arbitrary interpretations, as both Christopher and Peres have claimed, but that it granted Syria a license to use a proxy army — the Hizbullah militia — to wage war against Israel, while it was purportedly negotiating peace with Jerusalem.

Worse, in 1993 the government agreed that this proxy army would operate under conditions which forced the IDF to fight with one hand tied behind its back. While Hizbullah was allowed to recruit, organize, train, store weapons and hide in villages, Israel was obligated by the understandings not to attack these villages. True, Hizbullah was prohibited from "launching attacks" from populated areas, but there was nothing to prevent its gunmen from using the villages as shelters immediately after firing mortars, Katyushas and machine guns from a few hundred meters away. This ludicrous situation is now perpetuated by the written agreement.

It is difficult to recall such a treacherous agreement in recent history. There have been cases in which dictatorial regimes negotiated while their proxies continued a war of attrition. But no government negotiating peace has ever given its partner to the talks license to kill its

soldiers through proxies. On the contrary, negotiators always demand a total cease-fire during the talks. Nor has the IDF retained its "freedom of action" in Lebanon, as the government claims. It can only respond to firing; it cannot do what must be done against a guerrilla force: keep it off balance and on the run by taking the initiative.

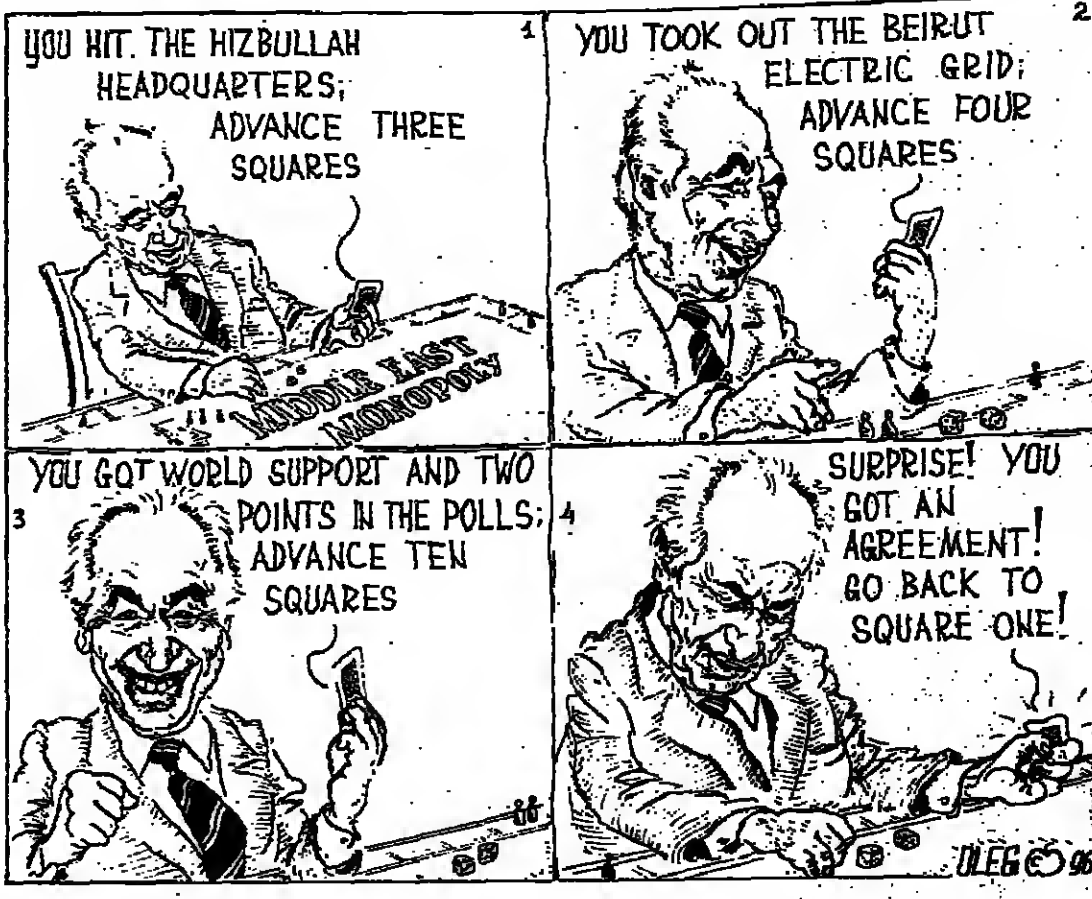
Such limitations are costly. Since the 1993 understandings were reached, 66 Israelis and scores of South Lebanon Army soldiers have been killed in Lebanon. Worse, this forced passivity has demoralized the SLA, inducing many of its soldiers to defect and collaborate with Hizbullah.

Nor has it done the army any good to adhere to the understandings. In chasing Hizbullah units, or shelling the sources of enemy fire, or bombing Hizbullah targets from the air, inevitable mistakes caused the death of civilians. The Hizbullah then used this as a pretext for firing Katyushas at Israel. That it did so only on Syrian orders should have been clear long ago. Whenever Damascus wanted complete calm on the Lebanese border — as, for example, during the week of President Bill Clinton's visit — the Hizbullah did its bidding with exemplary discipline, as it also did in observing the cease-fire yesterday morning.

The only innovation of the present agreement is that now there will be a monitoring group, made up of Syrians, Lebanese, French, Americans and Israelis, to which complaints about violations of the agreement will be submitted. But no one can seriously expect the Syrians, who claim that the Hizbullah is a grass-root group of patriotic freedom-fighters striving to liberate their country from Israeli occupation, to punish Hizbullah for using villages as bases.

If there is one achievement Christopher can boast, it is that he has apparently managed to convince Syrian dictator Hafez Assad that it would be advantageous for him to calm the Lebanese border for a while. The administration has made no secret of its belief that the negotiations process will benefit if Peres, who has agreed to relinquish the Golan, is elected prime minister. And if Assad has been persuaded that his chances of getting Israel to withdraw to the June 4, 1967 lines will be enhanced by Peres's election, he may indeed keep the northern border quiet for the next few weeks.

Peres obviously believes that Assad will restrain Hizbullah sufficiently to prevent the shelling of Israeli towns, and that the negotiations will get back on track. But the glaring fact is that he has failed to achieve the minimum goal of Grapes of Wrath — a complete cease-fire in Lebanon. Assad is certain to remember this failure, and Peres's easy acquiescence in it, when his representatives return to the negotiations.



A minute to doomsday

YOSEF LAPID

A few years ago, at 9:50 a.m. on Holocaust Remembrance Day, a suspicious object was discovered in a hospital in the center of the country. Visitors were requested to leave at once, and the nurses were just beginning to move the patients when the sirens sounded in memory of the Six Million.

Some of those present hurried out of the building, but most remained, standing in silence during two long minutes. Such a scene could transpire only in Israel. No other country has such a past; no other country has such a present. And no other country has such citizens.

The sad part is that on the state's 48th birthday we cannot escape from the baggage of the past nor shake off the yoke of the present to guarantee ourselves a rosier future.

Two years from now our country will be 50, and two forces loom over the approaching jubilee. At the point where they meet lies a threat to the existence of the Western world as a whole, and to Israel in particular.

The paradox: Israel's independence is guaranteed, but its existence isn't. Israel cannot be invaded, but it can be destroyed.

In this century we have seen two ideologies — Fascism and Communism — exterminate millions of people in their attempts to take over the world. Now Western civilization is threatened by a religious faith that draws its energies from the fanaticism of inflamed mobs.

including peace with the Palestinians and Syria, are marginal in the face of the ever-increasing nuclear threat. Katyushas fired on Galilee are a very serious matter, but they are a child's play compared to the real danger threatening Israel.

When President Yeltsin refused to accede to President Clinton's recent request that he refrain from setting up a nuclear reactor in Iran, he brought the hands of the doomsday clock nearer to zero hour.

Spears and shields, iron, battering rams, and fortified walls, machine guns and armor plating, aerial bombardment and concrete shelters — all developed in parallel and preserved a balance.

Nuclear weapons have broken the rules of the war game. One hydrogen bomb can wipe out millions of people, and there is no way to guard against it. Nothing but sanity can save humanity from the final catastrophe.

Perhaps even sanity won't save us. But as long as nuclear weapons remain in the hands of sane governments of sane nations, there is hope for human survival.

The atom bomb did not endanger world peace in Communist hands, because the Communists were rational and reasonable scoundrels who gave due consideration to the balance of the nuclear threat.

Iran is the place where the dark power of fanatical Islam meets the ability to manufacture nuclear weapons. It is only a question of time, and that is running out.

Southern Lebanon was decided our fate, not the Golan determine our future. Not even Jerusalem will fix our destiny. Every citizen of Israel (including its Arabs) stands at risk of physical destruction. It might not happen today or tomorrow, but it could happen the day after. Five years here or there are nothing in the history of nations.

It isn't enough for a Foreign Ministry think tank to mull over the issue. It isn't enough for a few professors to be aware of the extent of the danger. It isn't even enough that the Mossad is doing something about it.

If the State of Israel doesn't dedicate its best efforts to eliminating the nuclear threat, the nuclear threat will eliminate the State of Israel. And playing ostrich won't help in this matter of life and death.

Issues like the Jewish presence in Hebron are important. But they are rendered trivial by the risk that looms over us: the restoration of Tel Aviv to its original state: a barren desert, this time round a radioactive one.

The writer is an editorial writer for Ma'ariv.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EBAN'S PEACE

Sir, — We in Israel and Jews all over the world in the '60s and earlier, admired and respected Abba Eban as he brilliantly defended Israel. He was one of our heroes. I cannot understand how he can praise the so-called peace process with Arafat and the PLO that has brought us so much turmoil and destruction ("The old opposition," April 9). Only recently we had four bombings in one week.

Since the Oslo accord in 1993, 213 Israelis were killed and hundreds wounded by Palestinian terrorist attacks. These terrorists were encouraged to carry out their despicable violent actions by Arafat and his speeches in which he consistently praised martyrdom and supported continuation of a violent struggle to take over all of Israel, even while he was negotiating with Israel.

Only a few weeks ago Dr. Nabil Shaath, a so-called moderate Palestinian and adviser to Arafat, said that he was ready to send 30,000 soldiers to fight Israel if Israel did not give in to the Palestinian demands of returning Jerusalem, evacuating all Jewish settlements, etc.

THE ARAB VOTE

Sir, — After the recent spate of suicide bombings, Shimon Peres promised that there would be no pullback from Hebron until the capture of Mohammed Deif. Now that the Arabs have threatened not to vote for him in the forthcoming election, he has reneged on his promise to the Jewish people. If Shimon Peres could lie to his own people, what makes the Arabs think that he won't renege on his promises to them? The answer lies in the fact that Shimon Peres has more chance of winning the election with the Arab vote than the Jewish one.

Peres reneges on his promise to his own people, playing right into the hands of the cleverer blackmailers. That should lead the rest of us to question what kind of leadership qualities Shimon Peres really possesses.

Ra'anana. JUDY LEV

WHO HELPED THE HIZBULLAH?

Sir, — After Operation Account-ability, when the Shi'ites fled to northern Lebanon and Assad's name was mud in Beirut, Clinton sent Warren Christopher to Damascus. Christopher then offered Rabin the return of the Shi'ites to South Lebanon and a Syrian guarantee to prevent Katyushas on Galilee in return for Israel's agreement to allow the Hizbullah to continue killing Israeli soldiers in the Lebanese security zone. Rabin accepted. Assad's position in Lebanon and in the Golan Heights negotiations was saved.

How many Israeli soldiers have been killed in the security zone since then? And who is responsible for the Katyushas now falling on Galilee? Rabin? Peres, who endorsed the agreement? Or perhaps Christopher and Clinton?

Jerusalem. YOHANAN RAMATI

VICTIMS OF TERROR

Sir, — One cannot help but marvel at Uri Avnery's seemingly endless breast-beating and self-flagellation for "Palestinian" suffering (who never seems to display similar concern for Jewish suffering), as he mourns and laments upon the effects of the "closure" imposed by Israel ("This peace is killing us," April 15).

Labeling the closure of the territories imposed by Israel after the latest succession of Arab terrorist bombings in which 61 people were killed "a cruel siege" and an "additional nail in the coffin of the 'peace process.'" Avnery then proceeds to list and detail the disastrous results of the government's action.

Obviously, Avnery has no room (nor desire) to include on his list the disastrous results of these nefarious Arab terrorist attacks upon the innocent victims, their families, and by extension, all Israelis.

SHIFRA HOFFMAN, President, Victims of Arab Terror
Jerusalem.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



THREE SOLDIERS — When the commanding officer walks by, everyone salutes — even if you happen to be wooden. (Werner Braun)

POSTSCRIPTS

A TV commercial has been withdrawn from broadcast in New Zealand after viewers complained it satirized the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

The commercial was for an anti-cattle parasite chemical, sold by Agvet, a New Zealand subsidiary of American agricultural chemical company Merck, Stupp and Dohme.

It portrays a ranch with a "grassy knoll"; a masked figure is seen loading a gun in a barn labeled the "Hay Bale Depository," obviously based on the Texas School Book Depository; the calf labeled "JFK" is then drenched with the chemical which is described as the "Magic Bullet."

The choice is clear

NISSIM ZVILLI

THE future of the peace process lies not in the hands of Hamas suicide bombers, but in all of us — the electorate.

The terrorists, whose ultimate goal is the demise of the peace process, may have some people doubting the merits of the peace accords, but the cloud of smoke from their suicide bombings must not be allowed to obscure the clear choice on May 29.

No issue in the developing campaign is more on our minds than this security.

Which party and which candidate have the ideal solution? None. It is impossible to prevent all acts of terror during the peace process, just as it was before the process began.

Fundamentalists willing to die for a twisted version of Islam can always find a way to threaten us. Today the peace process is their enemy. Yesterday it was the occupation.

While there are no ideal solutions, some are better than others. The opposition would have us believe that anything is better than a process which relies upon Yasser Arafat as a partner. And yet, two and half years after the historic handshake on the White House lawn, they have yet to provide a realistic alternative.

Arafat might not be the ideal choice for a negotiating partner, but he is the elected choice of the Palestinian people, and this is why we're negotiating with him.

Only agreements reached with a leader who enjoys the Palestinian people's overwhelming mandate will have validity. Incredibly the Likud rejects Arafat's role, while offering no realistic alternative.

Israel and the international community must continue to place pressure on Arafat to live up to his part of the agreements. But there is no doubt that, in the wake of the latest terrorist attacks

and the Sharaf e-Sheikh summit, he is taking an aggressive stand against Islamic militants.

THE arrests of senior militant leaders by the Palestinian police and the continuing show of force in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip are promising steps. No Palestinian figure other than Arafat would have the ability to carry out such actions.

Similarly, the IDF and General Security Service have not relented in their pursuit of terrorists since the peace process began. The GSS recently disclosed that during 1995 it prevented seven attempted suicide attacks, five attempts to enter Israel with car bombs, 10 kidnappings of soldiers and civilians and an attempt to hijack a bus.

And the IDF maintains the ability to search for terrorists, as shown in its recent roundup of hundreds of Palestinian militants.

These security measures will be boosted with the infusion of \$100 million in anti-terrorism aid promised by President Clinton. On March 28, Congress cleared the way for the first half of this money to be transferred.

The Clinton administration's pressure on Arafat is certain to continue, and the president has moved up his next review of Arafat's compliance with his commitments to Israel from September to June.

Undoubtedly there will be other terrorist attacks.

The question for voters in the upcoming elections, therefore, is which vision for the future is more desirable: the process of disengagement and separation suggested by Israel's experienced prime minister and the reserve generals leading the Labor party, or a return to the status quo and the responsibility of occupying 2.5 million Palestinians.

The writer is secretary-general of the Labor Party.

There are no ideal solutions, but some are better than others

HIGH SCHOOL students in the Indian city of Kanpur have been ordered to take their exams barefoot — because too many were found stuffing crib notes into their shoes.

The students were frisked by gun-toting policemen before they went into their classrooms for final exams. Besides bits of paper in their shoes, some had scribbled formulas on their bodies.

One fallout of the shoe ban was that many students found their footwear missing when they came out.

Arabic text: *Arabic text*

Black-and-white: Still in the picture

WHENEVER two photographers meet, they talk. But when the subject comes around to black-and-white photography, "lament" is the more accurate description.

Is black-and-white going the way of the dodo? According to *Popular Photography* (January 1991), "Only a tiny percentage of the billions of pictures made each year are shot in black-and-white, and the numbers are diminishing."

In every sphere of photography, monochrome is under fire from the seductive ease, speed and cheapness of color. Less than a decade ago, black-and-white still dominated photo reportage. Photojournalists took their pictures and rushed into the lab to process them before deadline.

Today, news photographers are closing their B&W darkrooms. Everything is shot on color negative film, and processed on one-hour machines. Most black-and-white photos still seen in the press today are converted from color prints.

The fact is the eye does not see in black-and-white. It's unnatural. Someone wisely once said, "If color photography had been invented first, monochrome would never have been thought of."

For veteran press photographer Joel Fishman, color is "the fast food of photography" and monochrome "the five-star meal." He told "On Camera" in a recent conversation that black-and-

ON CAMERA

DAVID BRAUNER

white's heyday is over. As a result, black-and-white today imparts an aura of history, feeding nostalgia for a bygone era, which advertisers exploit, as in the recent 1960s-look Bezeq TV campaign.

"Black-and-white images are forever, no less a part of Western history than the *Mona Lisa*," asserts Fishman, who holds a PhD in modern European history from Columbia University. The classical images of monochrome photography are part of the mind-set of the 20th century.

Fishman suggests that Abe Rosenthal's photo of US Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima, Edward Weston's pepper, Alfred Eisenstaedt's Times Square kiss, Eddy Adam's sidewalk execution in Saigon and David Rubinger's three paratroopers at the Western Wall are but a few of the great images inextricably associated with black-and-white that will never die.

Black-and-white's advantages begin with its abstract qualities. "As in cubism," says Fishman, "one can show and distinguish planes much more easily in a two-tone image." Textured surfaces reveal graphic patterns and natural geometric shapes. Black-and-white is, therefore, the ideal medium for scientific, archeological and architectural work.

FISHMAN notes there is a conservative

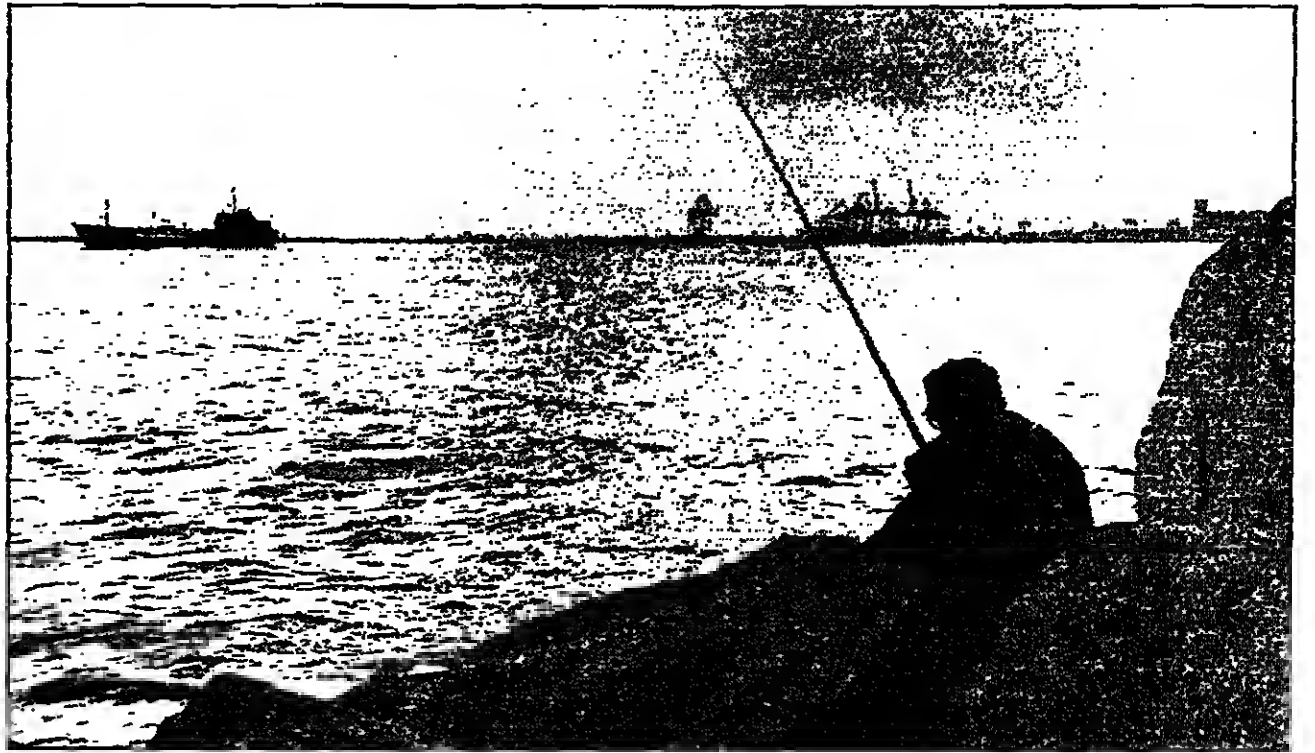
school of thought that says, "The picture is not the photographer's own unless he processes it himself. The options given the B&W worker in chemistry and papers can genuinely make a picture his own unique product."

The mystique of black-and-white is not what it says, but rather what is left for the imagination to fill in. By manipulating the contrast alone, the artistic photographer can change the whole mood of a landscape picture or make a humdrum portrait into something sublimely emotive. Recalling a wedding he photographed in Mea She'arim, Fishman cites a black-and-white image he made of the *keuba* signing "a picture of cosmic interest." In color, the same picture "looked cheap," because the throwaway pen used for the signing was bright orange.

Another advantage of black-and-white is its stability. Archival treated prints will remain stable. It is estimated, for hundreds of years, whereas color dyes deteriorate.

Quality black-and-white portraits and family photos made in the early decades of this century convey, in Fishman's words, "a sense of dignity and self-esteem," whereas "in the color, fast-food era of modern photography, people die all too often without leaving an honorable memento of their presence on earth."

Black-and-white, he says, is still the preferred medium for publicity material among musicians and performing



The mystique of black-and-white in a moody seascape.

(David Brauner)

artists.

Monochrome photography also distinguishes itself in difficult lighting situations, where blue, green and orange casts unseen by the human eye would be ruinous to color materials. The flexibility

of panchromatic (black-and-white) films in harsh sunlight or low light or in interiors lit by fluorescent and tungsten bulbs sometimes makes it the only viable choice for the professional.

The role of black-and-white in the

future? For Fishman, its basic justification is as "a high-class art form." It works because it is pure, direct and simple. Black-and-white may have lost its dominant role in photography, but it is far from out of the picture.

A woman appreciating her many worlds

CONSCIOUSLY Levantine, and rather proud of it, Jacqueline Kahanoff made a resolute effort to integrate into the Hebrew-speaking society when she came to live in Tel Aviv and Beersheba some 40 years ago.

Her enthusiastic guru on that course was Aharon Amir, poet and editor of a remarkable Hebrew quarterly *Keshet*. He published, in an excellent Hebrew version, a number of Kahanoff's spirited essays.

Eventually, the essays were published in book form jointly by Yaviv and Hadar publishing houses.

Kahanoff was born in Egypt when Fud was king and a British high commissioner was in control, the Turkish nobility titles lingered on, the Jews were reportedly rich, the Italians shrewd merchants, the house servants *Sadanese*, the intellectuals Greek, French was the *lingua franca*, and all of them swore by Egyptian nationalism.

"All spoke different languages, but they were aiming to one another," wrote Kahanoff, recalling her youth. On Sundays, the Italian maid used to take her to church. She had a French *barone*, who was ultimately replaced by an English governess.

"She hated the English governess, who insisted on being trim and different from the 'natives.' And she hated the British soldiers in their

THERE AND THEN

SRAYA SHAPIRO

baracks.

Her father's parents came from Baghdad. The grandfather wore a turban and a long robe and had a white beard. Kahanoff considered him a priest, because he emanated "something ancient which was called Jewishness, and which was mine too because it was his."

Her mother told her she should say she was "European" if people asked her what she was. "I suffered, because I knew it was a lie."

At school, she recalled, French *institutes* discoursed about *Patrie, Liberté, Egalité*, and *Fraternité*, well knowing these words had little or no relevance to their pupils, whom indeed, never really wished to become French.

"So really, we were nothing," Kahanoff reflected.

"Somehow, we aspired at vengeance - vengeance from the insolence of European domination, as well as from the Moslem majority which despised all minorities."

The Levantines in her class were mostly Jews and Greeks. "We felt we had been here since time immemorial, and we still stay here forever, and we'll change the world without altering ourselves much."

Kahanoff's mother strongly urged

her "not to be too clever," or she would miss her opportunity to find a match.

The example of Ashkenazi parents who permitted their daughters to study in Paris failed to impress the Tunisian-born mother. "Then let me take some job!" pleaded Kahanoff. But her mother was adamant in her refusal, "because people might think your father got broke."

At the beginning of World War II, she went to New York with her husband, a Russian-born American physician. America baffled her, because life there was different, "strange and somewhat crazy, droll and frightening" - also ice-cold and steely.

New York was huge. "I felt I was so tiny, so trampled down, anonymous, quite forlorn within the stream of hurrying people." America was big, repetitive, ugly. Totally different from what she had imagined after reading two American novels.

She did not stay long in the US. She divorced and went to Paris, where culture she thought she was familiar with, having studied in Cairo in a French-language lycée.

But here, too, she realized she was foreign. The friends she made

were practically all foreigners, as herself. The French were bitter with the memories of the war they had lost. "They moved around as mannequins in the theatrical surroundings of Paris."

In the mid-1950s she came to Israel.

"I am a typical Levantine," wrote Kahanoff, "inasmuch as I appreciate in equal measure what I have inherited from my Oriental origins and what I had acquired from Western culture. In Israel, this mutual fructification is called 'Levantinization' - I consider it as enrichment rather than impoverishment."

Veteran Israelis, she noted, believed that "a sort of war" is being waged between the Ashkenazi and the Sephardi traditions, and that if the Ashkenazim do not get the upper hand, Israel will lose some of its independence and become "Levantine."

Wrong! Wrong as the Arab countries were when they had disparaged Levantinization, Kahanoff wrote. Islam was at its apogee when the Arab conquerors were submitted to the Byzantine enlightenment.

Jacqueline Kahanoff was remembered recently at the first session of a group of intellectuals determined to enhance the notion here that the Mediterranean is the cradle and arena of European civilization - despite its interethnic squabbles.

Italians cling to home for need or convenience

MAMA'S boys and girls are in no hurry to leave home.

Millions of Italy's "mammoni" feel no shame and little pressure from peers or parents about lingering on well into their late 20s or 30s.

They pay nothing for lodging or the services of clothes washer, maid or cook - i.e., Mama - while they wait for the "perfect job" or the "perfect apartment."

But with the lifestyle growing more entrenched, Italian businessmen are starting to worry about the economic implications of so many people avoiding adult responsibilities - like jobs.

Sociologists and psychologists debate how such dependency shapes character. And priests in this overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country have taken to the pulpits to urge the coddled to move out, marry and multiply.

"Are we a nation of 'mammoni'?" asked a survey recently done for *Clicke*, a weekly program on state TV. "Si," said 76 percent of those polled.

Among reasons most cited for staying at home: a sluggish job market, high big-city rents and parents so permissive they let off-springs' girlfriends and boyfriends sleep under their roof.

Claudio Proccaccia, 31, moved back in with mama after a year living on his own, alone and rent-free in his brother's apartment in the heart of Rome. He said he was worn out after long days in university archives, where he is a research assistant while working on a doctorate in economic history. "The idea of making my own bed and cooking my dinner and then ironing my shirt - it took me an hour to do one shirt - just didn't go down well."

Proccaccia still uses his brother's apartment to bang out with friends, but eats and sleeps at mother's, where a live-in servant makes his bed and does his wash.

"I'M VERY happy, even if he didn't come back for sentimental reasons," said his mother, Virginia, 65, after rushing home from caring for a married daughter and two grandchildren, all down with the flu. Mrs. Proccaccia smiled as she defended her son's decision. "Children can count on parents, but parents also can count on their children."

Beppe Severgnini, a social commentator, said Italians "pnt comfort and quality of life before independence. They lack idealism.... They simply don't see the point in struggling."

"I've never thought about getting out," said Jacopo Maggio, a 31-year-old architect who lives in his parents' house in the upper-middle-class neighborhood of Montemario in Rome.

"It's as if this were my own house.... My mother only says, 'Just close the door when you come in late.'" Maggio does his own shirts, cooks, even runs the vacuum, over his mother's protests.

A report by the Eurispes Institute, which keeps tabs on social trends, said that for Italians 25 to 34 years old, roughly one of every two males lives with one or both parents. For females, who are more likely to be asked to help out at home, or to marry earlier, it's one out of three.

The same report noted that the army of stay-at-homes is less likely today to chip in for household expenses. In 1983, 23% contributed something. A decade later, only 9% did.

AT THE Censis think tank, director Giuseppe Roma said most of the resumes he gets are from people in their 30s seeking their first job. "At 30, they're already tired. I wouldn't hire them."

"Mammismo" poses a "serious problem for our country's economy," Roma said. "Not only are young people entering the work world late, they're entering it badly prepared."

At a recent conference, business leaders complained about growing reluctance of young people to climb the job ladder from the bottom, Roma said. Italian young people "are sticking to what's secure, and what's more secure than the family?" he said.

Italy's high jobless rate - roughly 12 percent nationwide and double that in the south - is often blamed. But that's an excuse, Roma argues. "Everyone says, 'They can't find a job, but what they are really saying is: 'I'm a college graduate. I don't want to do just anything.'"

Silvia Cossa, 26, said many Italians her age "turn up their noses at what they consider degrading work, like [being] maids."

Proccaccia, the doctoral candidate, said arithmetic was factored into his decision to return to mother's. While spared rent at his brother's apartment, his monthly university stipend of 1 million lira - about NIS 1,800 - had to pay for food, utilities, repair bills and, yes, a cleaning woman. (AP)

Is it ever right to destroy an animal?

BEING active and responsible in the field of animal welfare is by no means an easy task, even under the best of circumstances.

But when, in 1988, the television show *Kolbotek* depicted the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as something that resembled the animals' greatest enemy, everyone associated with the SPCA was shocked and, in some ways damaged.

The program dealt with the question of the painless destruction of animals for which there was no real hope of finding a home or proper care.

The unsuitability of the animal was usually due to its poor health, old age or bad behavior.

According to Hilda Friedstein, tireless veteran worker in animal rights for many years and head of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa SPCA, the broadcast was superficial and sought only to produce a sensational media event. She said photographs and statements were presented totally out of context and no effort was made to ascertain the facts.

HEADS N TAILS

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Friedstein said that she and other members of the SPCA suffered grave injury from this program, and she sued the Israel Broadcasting Authority and the staff of *Kolbotek* for libel and slander. That she did indeed suffer from this broadcast is certain. Far removed from the center of activities that the broadcast so badly distorted, this writer was also abusively attacked verbally and in writing for defending Friedstein and the SPCA.

To back her complaint to the courts, Friedstein produced evidence that far from being a "cruel and merciless" method of destroying certain animals, the method used was the one recommended by and currently in use by the Royal SPCA in Great Britain and the Veterinary Association in the US.

The court found these documents convincing, and it recently approved an out-of-court settlement. The IBA apologized to the SPCA and its members, admitting

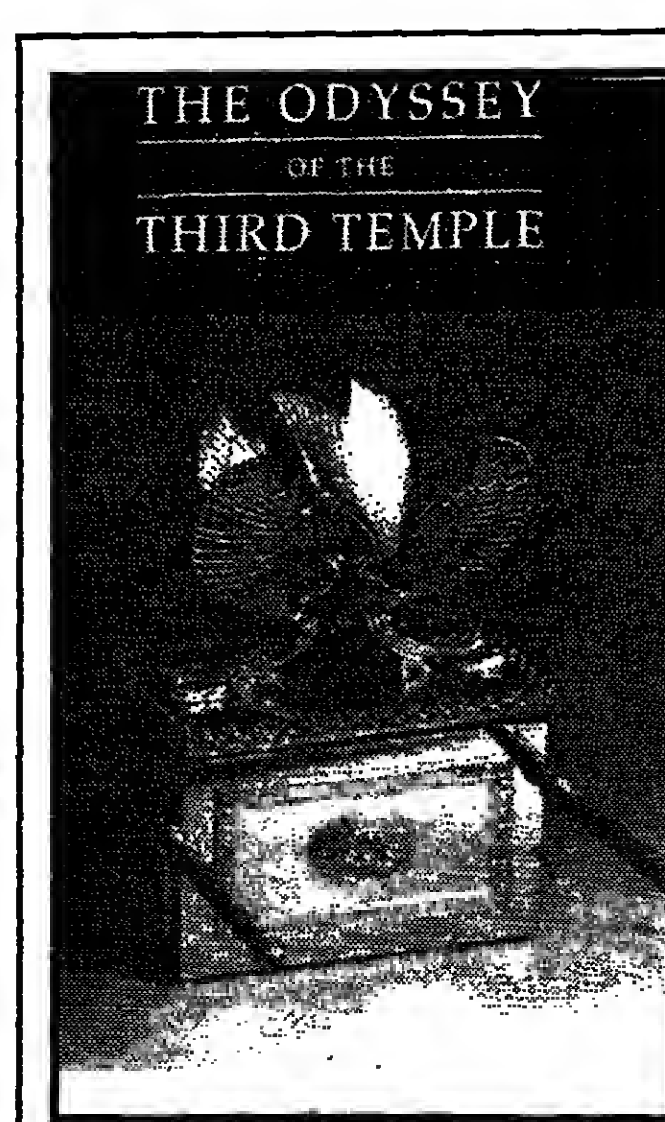
that they had been in error and were now convinced that the SPCA was operating with the welfare and protection of animals as their primary goal.

The authority also agreed to pay NIS 15,000 to the SPCA to compensate them for their legal costs in bringing suit. There the legal matter ended.

But the arguments never really ended, because animal lovers are sharply divided over the issue.

Some say no animals should ever be destroyed under any circumstances, and they are adamant in their view - just as other devoted animal welfare workers feel that some animals have to be destroyed to provide the best care for the most animals. This is not a simple case of right and wrong.

Both groups have the best interest of the animals at heart but differ about how to attain their goals. Certainly this will be disputed for a long time, but it is definitely a case for legitimate dispute and not for media sensationalism.



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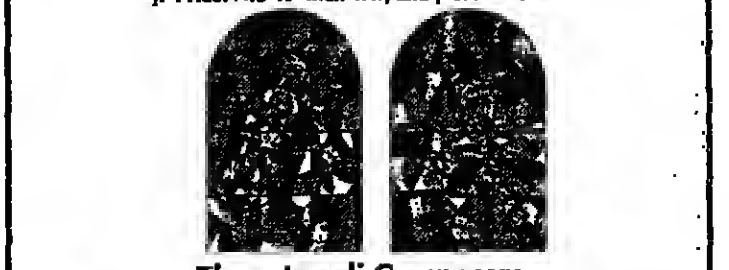
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Knicks go up 2-0 over Cleveland

CLEVELAND (AP) - Anthony Mason dominated the inside, collecting 23 points and 12 rebounds yesterday as the New York Knicks beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 84-80 for a 2-0 lead in the best-of-5 series.

The Knicks can wrap up the first round with a victory Wednesday night at Madison Square Garden, where the Cavaliers were 2-0 during the regular season.

The visiting team has won 12 of the last 14 New York-Cleveland meetings, including regular season and postseason games. The Knicks are 7-1 at Cleveland's Gund Arena since it opened in 1994.

Cleveland trailed 44-41 at halftime and never caught up in the second half, although it twice got within a point.

Both times, Mason answered - with a put-back that gave the Knicks a 50-47 lead early in the third quarter, and a lay-up and foul shot that put them ahead 69-65 with 7:16 left in the game.

The Cavs closed to 80-78 on Terrell Brandon's 19-foot jumper with 18.6 seconds to play but could get no closer. The Knicks made four of their six foul shots in the closing seconds to seal it.

Patrick Ewing scored 16 points, 14 of them in the second half, and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Knicks. Brad Doel led Cleveland with 21 points and 12 assists.

On Thursday, the Knicks defeated the Cavaliers 106-83, as New York ran off 20 straight points in the fourth quarter and made a team-record 17 3-pointers.

John Starks had six 3-pointers, Hubert Davis had five and the Knicks shot 17-of-22 from behind the arc. The 17 3s were two away from the NBA playoff record of 19 set by Houston at Utah last April.

Patrick Ewing scored 23 and Starks 21 for the Knicks. Dan Majerle had 23 and Terrell Brandon 18 for the Cavs.

Magic 112, Pistons 92

Orlando began what it hopes will be a journey back to the NBA Finals with a victory over Detroit.

Dennis Scott made six 3-pointers and scored 23 points as the defending Eastern Conference champion routed the Pistons' first taste of post-season action in four years.

Orlando broke the game open by outscoring Detroit 33-17 in the third quarter after the game was tied at halftime.

Shaquille O'Neal had 21 points and Aronie Hardaway 18 for the Magic.

Grant Hill led Detroit with 21 points. Allan Houston had 19 and Joe Dumars 14.

After the Pistons overcame a 13-point deficit in the first half, the Magic broke the game open in the third quarter with balanced scoring and good defense, forcing six turnovers and holding Detroit to 31 percent shooting.

Scott was 6-for-9 from behind the 3-point line while O'Neal scored at least 20 against the Pistons for the first time this season.

Suns 120, Suns 98

Vinny Del Negro scored 29 points, David Robinson had 28 and four other Spurs scored in double figures as host San Antonio trounced Phoenix.

San Antonio began pulling away in the second quarter, opening the period with an 18-10 run. Del Negro's layup at the halftime buzzer gave the Spurs a 58-44 lead, and they led by at least 20 through most of the second half.

Robinson and Del Negro each scored 11 in the third as San Antonio built a 24-point lead and led 95-71 heading into the final period.

The Suns shot just 42 percent from the field, compared with the Spurs' 62%.

A frustrated Charles Barkley led the Suns with 26 points on 7-for-17 shooting. The Suns had 12 rebounds. Kevin Johnson added 14 points.

Avery Johnson had 18 assists and 12 points. Sean Elliott added 16 points and Will Perdue 17.

Perdue, who came to San Antonio in exchange for Dennis Rodman in the offseason, had a career playoff-best in scoring, far surpassing his regular-season average of 5.3 points. His "heroic" dunk in the fourth quarter kept the Alamodome crowd howling as the Spurs kept the game out of reach.

Bulls 102, Heat 85

The Bulls were unable to shake visiting Miami for a half, then finished their playoff opener the same way they ended 72 regular-season games - victorious.

Michael Jordan scored 35 points and Ron Harper excelled in the momentum-shifting third quarter.

Tim Hardaway scored 30 points for Miami. Alonzo Mourning had only 10 points and two rebounds and spent most of game on the bench in foul trouble.

Mourning fouled out with 3:49 left, exchanging insults with Scottie Pippen as he left the court. Mourning and coach Pat Riley then were ejected for arguing with the referees, and Chris Gatling was ejected shortly thereafter as he drew the Heat's sixth technical foul.

Miami also had 28 turnovers, several of them coming in the key stretch of the third quarter when Chicago pulled away.

Chicago, which became the first NBA team to win 70-plus games in a season and finished 30 games ahead of eighth-seeded Miami, scored 36 points off Miami's turnovers. The Heat had dealt Chicago one of its 10 regular-season losses.

The sloppy, slow-paced game included 56 fouls, 32 on the Heat.

Bulls coach Phil Jackson pulled a mild surprise by starting Toni Kukoc at forward instead of Dennis Rodman, and Kukoc scored 21 points. Rodman, sporting his red, orange and yellow "flame" hairdo, grabbed 10 rebounds.

The Heat led 61-60 early in the third quarter when Harper's rebound basket began a 7-0 run that put the Bulls ahead to stay.

SuperSonics 97, Kings 85

Seattle, trying to overcome the bitter disappointment of first-round failure the past two seasons, beat visiting Sacramento, despite playing without suspended Shawn Kemp.

Gary Payton, Seattle's other All-Star, scored a career playoff-high 29 points in a 45-minute ironman performance in the absence of Kemp, who was forced to sit out the playoff opener after getting in a fight with Denver's Tom Hammond in the regular-season finale.

Detlef Schrempf scored 22 points and Sam Perkins 17 for the Sonics, while Mitch Richmond led Sacramento with 18 points on 4-of-13 shooting after being held scoreless in a pivotal opening quarter in which the Sonics scored the game's first nine points. The Kings never recovered.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Hawks 92, Pacers 80

Reggie Miller missed a playoff game for the first time in his nine-year NBA career - and the Pacers missed him.

Steve Smith scored 27 points, matching his playoff career-high, as visiting Atlanta beat Indiana.

Indiana didn't have a go-to scorer in the fourth quarter and was held to 12 points in the period.

Miller, who fractured his right eye socket late in the regular season, watched in frustration from the bench. Ricky Pierce and Travis Best replaced Miller, scoring 17 points on 5-of-15 shooting with no 3-pointers.

The Hawks were 11-for-23 on 3-pointers, while the Pacers were just 0-of-11, helping to offset a 10-point advantage for Indiana from the free throw line.



STOP HERE - New York's Anthony Mason puts pressure on Dan Majerle last night in Cleveland. (AP)

Atlanta had lost its previous 10 games in Market Square Arena.

Craig Ehlo scored all 12 of his points on 3-pointers in the second quarter, when the Hawks turned an eight-point deficit into a nine-point lead.

Christian Laettner added 14 points for Atlanta, while Indiana was led by Rick Smith with 19 points and Derrick McKey with 15.

Indiana rallied in the third period and tied the score entering the fourth, but without Miller in the lineup, the Pacers had no consistent outside shooter and the Hawks steadily outscored them in the final period.

Baskets by Laettner and Alan Henderson early in the fourth quarter put Atlanta ahead for good, and the final score was the biggest margin of the game.

Jazz 110, Trail Blazers 102

John Stockton had 23 assists, one shy of his NBA playoff record, and host Utah came back from an eight-point deficit in the final quarter to defeat Portland.

Earl Malone scored 13 points and Jeff Hornacek added 27, including a late 3-pointer that tied the victory. Utah won despite missing 19 foul shots - including 10 by Malone in 15 attempts.

Hornacek's trey, his fourth in as many attempts, came with 52.8 seconds remaining and gave the Jazz a 104-97 lead, capping a 37-21 run that began with the Jazz trailing by eight at the start of the quarter.

Bryon Russell added 12 points for the Jazz.

Stockton had 11 points to go along with his 23 assists. He and Magic Johnson share the record of 24 assists in a playoff game.

Hornacek shot 10-for-13 from the field.

MACCABI Tel Aviv's quest for a second straight soccer title was given a big boost yesterday when the defending champs won 1-0 at home against lowly Zafirim Holon, and Betar Jerusalem wrot down to defeat on a sensational long-range equalizer by Hapoel Beit She'an's Eitan Tayeb three minutes into injury time.

Maccabi Tel Aviv now holds a six-point lead over Maccabi Haifa, which moved back into second place with a convincing 3-0 victory away at the Halkva Quarter against Be'er Yehuda. Even though the Haifaites have a better goal difference than the leaders, it is unlikely Haifa can close a six-point deficit at this late stage.

Prior to Tayeb's stunner, Betar looked to have three points in the bag and were probably looking ahead to next weekend's game at Teddy Stadium against the leaders.

With Betar now trailing Dror Kashtan's men by seven points instead of five, the Tel Avivians will be in much more confident mood for that meeting.

At the bottom of the standings, Maccabi Jaffa's home defeat at the hands of Rishon LeZion leaves the club with 19 points and apparently a return straight to the Second Division.

Beitar Tel Aviv, in 15th place, grabbed a point hosting Hapoel Petah Tikva to move up to 21 points.

Holon's loss to the leaders keeps them in an uncomfortable position, one place above with 23 points. Draws helped Hapoel Beersheba and Beit She'an inch themselves a little further away from the relegation berths, while Kfar Sava should be safe thanks to a victory over Maccabi Herzliya.

Hap. Beit She'an 2, Bet. Jerusalem 2

Second-placed Beitar lost vital ground on the league leaders when Eitan Tayeb scored a spectacular injury time equalizer to see Beit She'an substantially ease their relegation worries.

Kfir Eliczer seems to be a happy hunting ground for Beit She'an, who last season beat Maccabi Haifa there in the last round to stay in the league for another season.

The Betarists were by far the more dominant side throughout, going ahead in the sixth minute through an Eli Ohana header. The Beitar star rose high in the area to divert Ark Benado's cross.

Beit She'an were not to be outdone and Vlachislav Melnikov immediately snuck back, scoring on a lightning-fast breakaway move just one minute later.

Beitar continued to dominate the midfield, and except for a few concerted efforts by the hosts, it looked as if it would be only a matter of time before the Jerusalemies would be in the lead again.

The parity was finally broken once again in the 65th minute with a superb Beitar move which followed a missed chance by Beit She'an.

The Jerusalemies took full advantage of the hosts' defensive disarray to mount an organized attack which saw Ohana head a cross down to Yossi Abukhis who volleyed past the helpless 'keeper Meir Cohen.

Beitar should have slowed the game down and tried to keep possession of

the ball as much as possible, but their tactics proved rash as, although they managed to get into scoring positions, they failed to increase their lead.

Beitar suffered a blow when David Anselm got himself sent off in the 87th minute for a tackle off the ball on Danny Malkin.

Beit She'an then decided to go all out on attack. The play worked three minutes into injury time when they finally managed to put together a co-ordinated move. The ball fell to Tayeb and he launched what to Beitar must have seemed like a rocket.

The ball ended up in the back of Beitar's net and the Jerusalemies title hopes suddenly appeared to be lying in tatters as Beit She'an celebrated an unlikely, but well-timed, draw.

Mac. Tel Aviv 1, Zafirim Holon 0

The Tel Avivians dominated the match from the outset, but were unable to convert their advantage into goals.

Holon had bad memories of the first round, when they decided to switch their home match to Bloomfield and were thrashed 5-0 by Maccabi.

Desperation and the knowledge that even at this late stage of the season any dropping of points could result in losing out on a second straight league crown turned into relief when Itzik Zohar scored on the breakaway in the 65th minute.

Maccabi continued to pile on the pressure but were unable to increase the scoreline.

Alon Bruner made an emotional return to Maccabi's lineup late in the second half as a substitute with all of Bloomfield giving him a rousing round of applause. Bruner had his leg broken earlier this season and had been out of action for seven months.

Bnei Yehuda 0, Mac. Haifa 3

Haifa continued to show that it has not given up the title chase, even though that task looks more difficult than ever now after Maccabi Tel Aviv's win over Zafirim Holon.

Unlike last week's desperate performance against the leaders, this weekend the Haifaites were in superlative form, Eyal Berkowitz in particular executing to perfection some of his most dazzling passes.

Rony Levy was Haifa's first goal scorer in the 13th minute after he received a perfect through ball from Berkowitz.

With just a minute gone, Ofer Shirrit added a second goal for Haifa when Berkowitz was involved in the thick of the action once again.

The league's leading scorer, Haim Revivo, sealed the result with a third goal - his 25th of the season - in the 78th minute.

Hap. Kfar Sava 1, Mac. Herzliya 0

Kfar Sava took a huge stride to avoid relegation with a tight single-goal win over Maccabi Herzliya, which is safely positioned in mid-table.

The match, played on Friday, was a tense affair, with neither team taking too many risks. A draw would have satisfied both sides, although the win has made an enormous difference to Kfar Sava's situation.

Kfar Sava only came into their own following the sending-off of Herzliya's Tomer Azuliz in the 71st minute for as second bookable offense.

The goal came 10 minutes later when Kobi Refuah converted a penalty after Gabi Sapir was fouled in the area.

Friday's victory prompted Kfar Sava chairman Eli Tabib to announce that coach Avi Cohen would be staying on for another season.

Beit Tel Aviv 1, Hap. PT 1

Beitar Tel Aviv look like very probable relegation candidates after man-

aging to escape with a point from a poor game against Hapoel Petah Tikva at Bloomfield.

Manor Hasan struck for Petah Tikva in the 70th minute and Yany Abargil replied seven minutes later to give Beitar a glimmer of hope. The Beitaris tried desperately to secure all three points, but Petah Tikva's goalkeeper, Shai Hess excelled to keep the visitors on level terms until the final whistle.

Hap. Haifa 2, Hap. Tel Aviv 1

Ofer Talker with a 12th-minute header and Tal Banin with a second saw the Haifaites do just enough to justify their victory over Tel Aviv.

The visitors replied with a goal from Nissim Avitan five minutes before halftime, but in the second, Haifa took a defensive attitude as it set up their lead for the whole of the second half, and the Tel Avivians failed to find a way through.

Mac. Jaffa 1, Ironi Rishon 2

Maccabi Jaffa can now don their parashutes and prepare to jump back into the Second Division after just one season in the top flight.

Not even the added coaching assistance of Eli Cohen and David Schweitzer, who were drafted to help Shlomo Alkolombra, have been able to inject any life into the players.

Dudu Elkassabi put Rishon ahead after 10 minutes, but Jaffa was not finished just yet.

Yuri Moutz hit a superb 25-meter free kick which ended up in the net 18th minute, but when he proceeded to get himself sent off in the 36th minute it appeared as if it would be only a matter of time before Rishon would bury their hosts once and for all.

The winning goal finally came in the 41st minute when Moshe Sabag struck for Rishon from the edge of the area.

The Jaffa camp's morale cannot be any lower, as next week they travel to Beersheba. The Negv side are tight out of danger just yet and they will throw everything at their opponents.

Mac. PT 0, Hap. Beersheba 0

An uneventful game was highlighted by the sending off of Petah Tikva's Azeri defender Murad Megamadov late in the game.

Beersheba tried to capitalize on the situation, but Petah Tikva, which is assured of a National League berth next season, was prepared to bide their time until the final whistle.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Mac. Jaffa	(11)	Ironi Rishon	(12)
Mozot 13		Elkassab, 10	
		Sabat, 7	
Mac. PT	(9)	Hap. Beersheba	(10)
Hap. Kfar Sava	(9)	Mac. Herzliya	(10)
Halkva, 81 (pen)		Halkva, 81	
Hap. Haifa	(9)	Hap. Tel Aviv	(11)
Tel. Aviv	(9)	N. Ashalon, 40	
Bnei Sava	(9)	Mac. Haifa	(13)
Bnei Yehuda	(10)	Rishon, 14	
		Zafirim Holon	(10)
		Holon, 7	
Mac. Tel Aviv	(11)	Hap. PT	(9)
Zohar, 65		Holon, 10	
Beit Tel Aviv	(11)	Beit. Jerusalem	(12)
Alon, 12		Cher, 7	
Melnikov, 7		Abukhis, 65	
Tayeb, 30			

After 27 rounds

Mac. Tel Aviv	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mac. Haifa	20	5	2	55	18	65
Beit. Jerusalem	17	8	2	70	30	58
Hap. Haifa	17	7	3	58	28	57
Hap. Tel Aviv	13	8	3	34	25	45
Mac. Petah Tikva	12	8	6	31	31	45
Mac. Herzliya	10	5	12	31	31	35
Hap. Petah Tikva	7	14	8	28	33	33
Bnei Yehuda	7	14	11	27	27	31
Hap. Kfar Sava	5	10	12	24	27	27
Hap. Beit She'an	5	10	12	23	24	24
Hap. Beersheba	5	10	12	23	24	24
Zafirim Holon	5	10	12	23	24	24
Beit Tel Aviv	5	10	12	23	24	24
Mos. Jaffa	5	10	12	23	24	24

This week's winning Sportlotto line: 2, X, 1, 2, 1, X, X, 2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 2

This week's winning Toto Plus line: X, X, 2, X, X, 2, 2, 1, 2, 2

Winning Totokoto numbers: 2, 7, 6, 15, 16, 24, 27.

Both times, Mason answered - with a put-back that gave the Knicks a 50-47 lead early in the third quarter, and a lay-up and foul shot that put them ahead 69-65 with 7:16 left in the game.

The Cavs closed to 80-78 on Terrell Brandon's 19-foot jumper with 18.6 seconds to play but could get no closer. The Knicks made four of their six foul shots in the closing seconds to seal it.

Patrick Ewing scored 16 points, 14 of them in the second half, and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Knicks. Brad Doel led Cleveland with 21 points and 12 assists.

On Thursday, the Knicks defeated the Cavaliers 106-83, as New York ran off 20 straight points in the fourth quarter and made a team-record 17 3-pointers.

John Starks had six 3-pointers, Hubert Davis had five and the Knicks shot 17-of-22 from behind the arc. The 17 3s were two away from the NBA playoff record of 19 set by Houston at Utah last April.

Patrick Ewing scored 23 and Starks 21 for the Knicks. Dan Majerle had 23 and Terrell Brandon 18 for the Cavs.

Magic 112, Pistons 92

Orlando began what it hopes will be a journey back to the NBA Finals with a victory over Detroit.

Dennis Scott made six 3-pointers and scored 23 points as the defending Eastern Conference champion routed the Pistons' first taste of post-season action in four years.

Orlando broke the game open by outscoring Detroit 33-17 in the third quarter after the game was tied at halftime.

Shaquille O'Neal had 21 points and Aronie Hardaway 18 for the Magic.

Grant Hill led Detroit with 21 points. Allan Houston had 19 and Joe Dumars 14.

After the Pistons overcame a 13-point deficit in the first half, the Magic broke the game open in the third quarter with balanced scoring and good defense, forcing six turnovers and holding Detroit to 31 percent shooting.

Scott was 6-for-9 from behind the 3-point line while O'Neal scored at least 20 against the Pistons for the first time this season.

Suns 120, Suns 98

Vinny Del Negro scored 29 points, David Robinson had 28 and four other Spurs scored in double figures as host San Antonio trounced Phoenix.

San Antonio began pulling away in the second quarter, opening the period with an 18-10 run. Del Negro's layup at the halftime buzzer gave the Spurs a 58-44 lead, and they led by at least 20 through most of the second half.

SPORTS BRIEFS

St. Helens wins Challenge Cup final

St. Helens beat Bradford 40-32 (halftime 12-14) in the final of the English rugby league Challenge Cup at Wembley yesterday. *Reuters*

Marino signs new deal with Dolphins

Dan Marino's new three-year contract includes a no-trade clause and a signing bonus of \$5.8 million, according to a published report over the weekend. The contract Marino signed last week will pay him \$17.9m. through 1998, the Tampa Tribune reported. His average annual salary of \$5.97m. ranks third among NFL quarterbacks, behind New England's Drew Bledsoe and Dallas' Troy Aikman. *AP*

Nadia Comaneci marries Bart Conner

Dressed in white, with six girl gymnasts to carry her seven-meter train, Nadia Comaneci married American Bart Conner in a lavish church ceremony yesterday, one day after they wed in a civil service. About 2,000 spectators gathered in front of Bucharest's famous Casino monastery, where seven priests blessed the union of the two gymnastic greats. *AP*

Israeli swimmer wins gold at Austrian Open

HEATHER CHAIT

MICKEY Halika, 17, waiting in the wings to join the Olympic delegation, won the gold medal and set a new national record on Friday at the Austrian Open Championships in Vienna.

Halika swam the 400-meters individual medley in 4:25.54, eclipsing the previous record of 4:28.44 and setting a new tournament record.

To qualify for the Olympics, Halika needed to make 4:23, and his inclusion in the delegation is thus still not assured.

Another gold went to Uri Stiff, who won the 100-meter breast stroke in 1:03.5 and finished fourth in the 200-meter breast stroke in 2:24.85.

Yozz Meiri captured a silver medal in the 200-meter butterfly, clocking 2:03.44, while Eran Garuni, back from his retirement, took the bronze medal in the 100-meter back stroke, in 58.16.

Also in the 100-meter backstroke final, Eytan Orbach finished fourth in 58.21.

Oren Azrad finished the 100-meter freestyle in 52.65 to take fifth place. He swam the 200-meter freestyle in 1:55.41, taking sixth place.

The competition continues today.

Dutch, German hooligans barred from Euro Championships

Forty-seven people were arrested before and during the match in Rotterdam on charges ranging from disrupting public order to assault with a knife.

Rotterdam police spokesman Ger de Jong said Thursday that most of those arrested were released after paying a fine. But 14 remained in custody and six attended court proceedings Thursday. The rest are scheduled to appear in court Friday.

At the end of Germany's 1-0 victory, riot police made baton charges at German fans who were attempting to smash seats in Rotterdam's Knip stadium.

Hooligans also smashed windows in downtown Rotterdam cafes.

Two fans, one German and one Dutch, were hospitalized with knife wounds, De Jong said.

Both teams are expected to bring large contingents of fans to the European Championships, which run from June 8 to June 30.

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Change

US dollar ... NIS 3.1740 -0.19%

Sterling ... NIS 4.7824 -0.49%

Mark ... NIS 2.0724 -0.37%

NYSE STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

NYSE Composite	2,919.51	+15.29
DJ Industrial	1,067.29	+13.98
DJ Transportation	2,919.51	+15.29
DJ Utility	185.24	+1.14
NYSE Midcap	448.42	+1.14
NYSE Smallcap	333.42	+1.14
NYSE Energy	302.82	+6.20
NYSE Tech	333.42	+1.14
S&P 500	333.42	+1.14
S&P Midcap	333.42	+1.14
S&P Smallcap	333.42	+1.14
AMEX Comp	361.51	+1.21

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	1,067.29	+13.98
Nikkei 225	2,919.51	+15.29
Hong Kong Hang Seng	1,067.29	+13.98
London FTSE 100	1,067.29	+13.98

Israeli stocks in NY

Amir	35.26	+0.25
Amir A	35.26	+0.25
Amir B	35.26	+0.25
Amir C	35.26	+0.25
Amir D	35.26	+0.25
Amir E	35.26	+0.25
Amir F	35.26	+0.25
Amir G	35.26	+0.25
Amir H	35.26	+0.25
Amir I	35.26	+0.25
Amir J	35.26	+0.25
Amir K	35.26	+0.25
Amir L	35.26	+0.25
Amir M	35.26	+0.25
Amir N	35.26	+0.25
Amir O	35.26	+0.25
Amir P	35.26	+0.25
Amir Q	35.26	+0.25
Amir R	35.26	+0.25
Amir S	35.26	+0.25
Amir T	35.26	+0.25
Amir U	35.26	+0.25
Amir V	35.26	+0.25
Amir W	35.26	+0.25
Amir X	35.26	+0.25
Amir Y	35.26	+0.25
Amir Z	35.26	+0.25

NYSE AMEX

Amir	35.26	+0.25
Amir A	35.26	+0.25
Amir B	35.26	+0.25
Amir C	35.26	+0.25
Amir D	35.26	+0.25
Amir E	35.26	+0.25
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Amir U	35.26	+0.25
Amir V	35.26	+0.25
Amir W	35.26	+0.25
Amir X	35.26	+0.25
Amir Y	35.26	+0.25
Amir Z	35.26	+0.25

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US commodities

Gold	375.00	+1.00
Silver	10.00	+0.05
Copper	1.50	+0.02
Aluminum	0.80	+0.01
Zinc	0.60	+0.01
Nickel	0.40	+0.01
Lead	0.30	+0.01
Iron Ore	15.00	+0.50
Wheat	1.20	+0.02
Corn	0.80	+0.01
Soybeans	0.90	+0.02
Oil	20.00	+0.50
Natural Gas	1.00	+0.02

London commodities

Gold	375.00	+1.00
Silver	10.00	+0.05
Copper	1.50	+0.02
Aluminum	0.80	+0.01
Zinc	0.60	+0.01
Nickel	0.40	+0.01
Lead	0.30	+0.01
Iron Ore	15.00	+0.50
Wheat	1.20	+0.02
Corn	0.80	+0.01
Soybeans	0.90	+0.02
Oil	20.00	+0.50
Natural Gas	1.00	+0.02

Spot market metals (US)

Gold	375.00	+1.00
Silver	10.00	+0.05
Copper	1.50	+0.02
Aluminum	0.80	+0.01
Zinc	0.60	+0.01
Nickel	0.40	+0.01
Lead	0.30	+0.01
Iron Ore	15.00	+0.50
Wheat	1.20	+0.02
Corn	0.80	+0.01
Soybeans	0.90	+0.02
Oil	20.00	+0.50
Natural Gas	1.00	+0.02

New York metal futures

Gold	375.00	+1.00
Silver	10.00	+0.05
Copper	1.50	+0.02
Aluminum	0.80	+0.01
Zinc	0.60	+0.01
Nickel	0.40	+0.01
Lead	0.30	+0.01
Iron Ore	15.00	+0.50
Wheat	1.20	+0.02
Corn	0.80	+0.01
Soybeans	0.90	+0.02
Oil	20.00	+0.50
Natural Gas	1.00	+0.02

London metal fixes

Gold	375.00	+1.00
Silver	10.00	+0.05
Copper	1.50	+0.02
Aluminum	0.80	+0.01
Zinc	0.60	+0.01
Nickel	0.40	+0.01
Lead	0.30	+0.01
Iron Ore	15.00	+0.50
Wheat	1.20	+0.02
Corn	0.80	+0.01
Soybeans	0.90	+0.02
Oil	20.00	+0.50
Natural Gas	1.00	+0.02

Nasdaq sets record

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks rose Friday in quiet trading with little earnings or economic news to move the market. Technology issues resumed their rapid climb after some early weakness, lifting the surging Nasdaq Stock Market further into record territory.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained about 1 1/4 points. The sluggish blue-chip index continued to trade in a narrow range, moving little more than 20 points in either direction during the session.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.08 to 5,567.99.

Dow ends week up 32

WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow industrials rose 1.08 to 5,567.99 on Friday, ending the week with a gain of 32.51.

The NYSE's composite index rose 0.53 to 3,508.2, up 4.42 for the week. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index rose 0.59 to 653.46, a gain of 8.39 on the week.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 2.37 to 1,186.54.

At the American Stock Exchange, the market value index rose 2.11 to 593.57.

London ends near high

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) — Shares ended higher as continuing bid speculation and hopes for lower interest rates pushed the FTSE 100 index within striking distance of its all-time peak, a level that could be breached early next week. The FTSE 100 index ended 13.5 points firmer at 3,832.8, 24.3 below its all-time closing and trading high of 3,857.1, set on the previous Friday.

Dollar retreats before yen

CURRENCY REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) — The dollar fell Friday after a leading Japanese newspaper said the Bank of Japan could raise interest rates as early as May, setting off a rally that held up even after the report was officially denied.

The coming "Golden Week" holiday in Japan also helped weaken the dollar. Many traders theorized the Bank of Japan, which frequently has entered the market to buy dollars and sell yen, wouldn't intervene next week. That would make the dollar more vulnerable to decline.

Reading between the lines...

you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

limited until the end of Golden Week — a series of national holidays next week — despite an unchanged bullish outlook in the near term. The 225-share Nikkei average closed up 4.93 points at 22,235.03 up 351.19 from last Friday.

JOHANNESBURG — Gold shares bounded up on an ailing rand but topped off their best levels towards the close on profit taking as investors grew wary of the impact of the country's plunge on the economy in the long term. PARIS — Shares ended the week at their highest closing level for the year, buoyed by rising bond prices and speculative interest in some financial stocks. It has gained 45.91 for the week.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (26.49%)

Currency (deposit rate)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.25	4.25	5.00
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.125	4.25	4.50
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.75	3.75	3.825
Yen (10 million yen)	3.75	3.75	3.825

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

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ISRAEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES* (26.49%)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	SELL	BUY	REMARKS
Currency basket	3.5140	3.5710	3.09
U.S. dollar	3.1818	3.2925	3.09
Canadian dollar	2.0275	2.0275	3.25
French franc	4.7322	4.6229	4.86
Japanese yen (100)	0.8089	0.8198	0.28
Swiss franc	2.5480	2.5992	2.80
British pound	0.4629	0.4708	0.48
Deutsche mark	0.4784	0.4773	0.47
Italian lire (1000)	0.2023	0.2048	1.27
Australian dollar	2.4915	2.5317	2.44
Spanish peseta (100)	2.0123	2.0448	1.27
Portuguese escudo (200)	2.0123	2.0448	1.27
Israeli sheqel	1.0000	1.0000	1.00
Israeli sheqel (100)	1.0000	1.0000	1.00
Israeli sheqel (1000)	1.0000	1.0000	1.00
Israeli sheqel (10000)	1.0000	1.0000	1.00
Israeli sheqel (100000)	1.0000	1.0000	1.00
Israeli sheqel (1000000)	1.0000	1.0000	1.00

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK	PRICE	CHG	NEW YORK	PRICE	CHG	NEW YORK	PRICE	CHG	NEW YORK	PRICE	CHG
Amir	35.26	+0.25	Amir A	35.26	+0.25	Amir B	35.26	+0.25	Amir C	35.26	+0.25
Amir D	35.26	+0.25	Amir E	35.26	+0.25	Amir F	35.26	+0.25	Amir G	35.26	+0.25
Amir H	35.26	+0.25	Amir I	35.26	+0.25	Amir J	35.26	+0.25	Amir K	35.26	+0.25
Amir L	35.26	+0.25	Amir M	35.26	+0.25	Amir N	35.26	+0.25	Amir O	35.26	+0.25
Amir P	35.26	+0.25	Amir Q	35.26	+0.25	Amir R	35.26	+0.25	Amir S	35.26	+0.25
Amir T	35.26	+0.25	Amir U	35.26	+0.25	Amir V	35.26	+0.25	Amir W	35.26	+0.25
Amir X	35.26	+0.25	Amir Y	35.26	+0.25	Amir Z	35.26	+0.25	Amir AA	35.26	+0.25
Amir AB	35.26	+0.25	Amir AC	35.26	+0.25	Amir AD	35.26	+0.25	Amir AE	35.26	+0.25
Amir AF	35.26	+0.25	Amir AG	35.26	+0.25	Amir AH	35.26	+0.25	Amir AI	35.26	+0.25
Amir AJ	35.26	+0.25	Amir AK	35.26	+0.25	Amir AL	35.26	+0.25	Amir AM	35.26	+0.25
Amir AN	35.26	+0.25	Amir AO	35.26	+0.25	Amir AP	35.26	+0.25	Amir AQ	35.26	+0.25
Amir AR	35.26	+0.25	Amir AS	35.26	+0.25	Amir AT	35.26	+0.25	Amir AU	35.26	+0.25
Amir AV	35.26	+0.25	Amir AW	35.26	+0.25	Amir AX	35.26	+0.25	Amir AY	35.26	+0.25
Amir AZ	35.26	+0.25	Amir BA	35.26	+0.25	Amir BB	35.26	+0.25	Amir BC	35.26	+0.25
Amir BD	35.26	+0.25	Amir BE	35.26	+0.25	Amir BF	35.26	+0.25	Amir BG	35.26	+0.25
Amir BH	35.26	+0.25	Amir BI	35.26	+0.25	Amir BJ	35.26	+0.25	Amir BK	35.26	+0.25
Amir BL	35.26	+0.25	Amir BM	35.26	+0.25	Amir BN	35.26	+0.25	Amir BO	35.26	+0.25
Amir BP	35.26	+0.25	Amir BQ	35.26	+0.25	Amir BR	35.26	+0.25	Amir BS	35.26	+0.25
Amir BT	35.26	+0.25	Amir BU	35.26	+0.25	Amir BV	35.26	+0.25	Amir BV	35.26	+0.25
Amir BW	35.26	+0.25	Amir BX	35.26	+0.25	Amir BY	35.26	+0.25	Amir BY	35.26	+0.25
Amir BZ	35.26	+0.25	Amir CA	35.26	+0.25	Amir CB	35.26	+0.25	Amir CB	35.26	+0.25
Amir CC	35.26	+0.25	Amir CC	35.26	+0.25	Amir CC	35.26	+0.25	Amir CC	35.26	+0.25
Amir CD	35.26	+0.25	Amir CD	35.26	+0.25	Amir CD	35.26	+0.25	Amir CD	35.26	+0.25
Amir CE	35.26	+0.25	Amir CE	35.26	+0.25	Amir CE	35.26	+0.25	Amir CE	35.26	+0.25
Amir CF	35.26	+0.25	Amir CF	35.26	+0.25	Amir CF	35.26	+0.25	Amir CF	35.26	+0.25
Amir CG	35.26	+0.25	Amir CG	35.26	+0.25	Amir CG	35.26	+0.25	Amir CG	35.26	+0.25
Amir CH	35.26	+0.25	Amir CH	35.26	+0.25	Amir CH	35.26	+0.25	Amir CH	35.26	+0.25
Amir CI	35.26	+0.25	Amir CI	35.26	+0.25	Amir CI	35.26	+0.25	Amir CI	35.26	+0.25
Amir CJ	35.26	+0.25	Amir CJ	35.26	+0.25	Amir CJ	35.26	+0.25	Amir CJ	35.26	+0.25
Amir CK	35.26	+0.25	Amir CK	35.26	+0.25	Amir CK	35.26	+0.25	Amir CK	35.26	+0.25
Amir CL	35.26	+0.25	Amir CL	35.26	+0.25	Amir CL	35.26	+0.25	Amir CL	35.26	+0.25
Amir CM	35.26	+0.25	Amir CM	35.26	+0.25	Amir CM	35.26	+0.25	Amir CM	35.26	+0.25
Amir CN	35.26	+0.25	Amir CN	35.26	+0.25	Amir CN	35.26	+0.25	Amir CN	35.26	+0.25
Amir CO	35.26	+0.25	Amir CO	35.26	+0.25	Amir CO	35.26	+0.25	Amir CO	35.26	+0.25
Amir CP	35.26	+0.25	Amir CP	35.26	+0.25	Amir CP	35.26	+0.25	Amir CP	35.26	+0.25
Amir CQ	35.26	+0.25	Amir CQ	35.26	+0.25	Amir CQ					

Closure to be eased

News agencies

THE full closure of the territories imposed before Independence Day was to be eased before dawn this morning, the IDF Spokesman announced.

The terms of the closure imposed after the wave of suicide bombings in March will now resume. The IDF tightened the closure earlier this week on the eve of Independence Day, fearing terror attacks.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian

Authority has decided to close the Gaza Strip's Karni and Sufa crossing points, used for transfer of goods, for the next three days due to the Id al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) holiday. The PA decided to declare the holiday a day of rest and ordered the crossings shut until Wednesday.

Building materials will be allowed in the Sufa crossing but will not be processed until after the holiday.

Peres-Clinton meet in US today

Jerusalem Post Staff

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres left for the United States last night, and is scheduled to meet with President Bill Clinton at the White House today for talks, expected to focus on upgrading the security relationship between the two countries.

The two are expected to make a "joint statement" on beginning such talks, which may include a possible limited defense treaty. An anti-terrorism agreement will also be signed.

Later today, Peres is to join Clinton in addressing the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, and the two will hold further discussions Tuesday.

Peres will also meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, with whom he is likely to discuss ways the newly signed understandings on

Lebanon can best be monitored. The two are also expected to try to work out a date for resuming talks with the Syrians at the Wye Conference Center in Maryland.

In a meeting today at the Pentagon, Peres and Defense Secretary William Perry are expected to sign an anti-missile defense accord extending US backing for the development of the Arrow missile. The US would provide some \$200 million for the project while Israel provides \$300m. over the next five years.

US support for development of the Nautilus laser, designed to shoot down short-range rockets such as Katyushas, is also expected to be discussed. Peres will be in the US for three days and will then travel to France for talks with President Jacques Chirac before returning here on Thursday.



Lesley Gaon, Sally Linderman, Francesca Harris, and Israel and Jacky Ovits, participants in the Jewish National Fund of Great Britain's third annual 'Walk for Water,' warm up in Jerusalem for today's first lap of their four-day adventure through caves, talls, tunnels and flowers of the Judean foothills. The 80-kilometer walk aimed at raising money for JNF water reservoirs culminated at David's Tower on Wednesday. (Joe Minko)

Priest found dead in Holy Sepulchre church

POLICE said they were investigating the death of a Mexican priest found yesterday in his room in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

"He was found lying on the floor, with blood that had issued from his nose," said police

spokesman Shmulik Ben-Ruby. Channel 1 reported police suspect he was murdered.

Claudio Mateo Medina, 34, a Mexican citizen, was a member of the Franciscan Order in Jerusalem until last year when he left for a trip to Europe, an official of the

order said. Medina returned late on Friday and asked to be put up in the church. The official, who declined to be identified, said the order was checking reports he was murdered.

"Given his age, a death from natural causes seems unlikely. We

are investigating if the death was from some sort of fall, or from criminal violence," Ben-Ruby told Reuters.

The priest's body was sent to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute for an autopsy, Ben-Ruby said. (Reuters)

British rabbinate helping Orthodox woman in bid to get husband to agree to 'get'

LONDON (AP) - In David vs. David, Rachel wears power suits and sells high-tech medical equipment; Moses is a computer programmer.

Theirs is a 1990s divorce, but with an ancient twist: their most potent weapons have been plucked from the age-old pages of Jewish law.

Mrs. David, acting through the British rabbinate, won a rare order against her recalcitrant husband: Until he grants her a religious writ of divorce, or *get*, no observant Jew may speak to him or come within six meters of him.

The order, called a *nidui*, could have an impact throughout the Jewish world, where women's groups are increasingly pressuring religious authorities to do more to help women like Mrs. David.

"This sends out an important message for other recalcitrant husbands," said Blu Greenberg, an American feminist cam-

paigner for women's rights within Jewish law, speaking from New York.

Rabbi Berel Berkovits, the religious judge behind the *nidui*, said: "It's having a powerful effect. It's depriving him of his social freedom, and he's sensitive to that."

David, contacted recently by phone, said only that he was outraged by the order but would not comment further. His reaction pleases Mrs. David, who said that since the *nidui*, her husband has taken action to renew negotiations that might lead to a settlement including a divorce. "This is hurting him. He's the sort of person who likes to be welcomed into people's homes," she said.

The *nidui* was a response in kind to the punishment that David imposed on his wife. Although he initiated their civil divorce after she left him, he refused to grant a *get*.

The Davids married in 1983 when she

was 17 and he was 30, then separated in 1991. Mrs. David cited abuse and took their three children. David was convicted of assaulting his wife after the separation and was given a suspended sentence in 1994.

"Violence is a sense of control," Mrs. David said. "Now, he's trying to stretch his control out."

The religious judge who originally handled their case, Pinchas Toledano, admits he did little for Mrs. David, arguing that Jewish law left him no choice. He derides Mrs. David as an "actress" for going to the news media.

Like thousands of other women in the same position, Mrs. David faced an uncomfortable choice: Abandon prospects of remarriage, or abandon Judaism.

"Judaism is my life," she said. "I observe all the commandments, I keep Shabbat and eat kosher food, and it's important that my children do, too. I won't run away just

because I have problems."

Mrs. David sought a shunning order after hearing that rabbis belonging to small *haredi* sects in New York had used the *nidui*.

Rebuffed by Toledano, she approached Berkovits, who is higher in the hierarchy. Already under pressure from Jewish women's groups to find creative solutions to the divorce dilemma, Berkovits saw the *nidui* as an answer. "The mainstream Orthodox rabbis persuaded his colleagues to issue the order in January. 'We knew it would have repercussions throughout the community,'" he said.

And, beyond Jewish law operates on precedent, and other Orthodox communal laws will take notice of the order to shun a recalcitrant husband. The director of Israel's rabbinical courts, Rabbi Eli Ben-Dahan, said he welcomed the British rabbi's action, although he said existing laws in Israel suffice to deal with the problem.

Shaath: Doubts over charter change are demagogic

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said yesterday that questions raised about the Palestinian National Council's sincere cancellation of the existing national covenant are "totally demagogic."

He mentioned Likud MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin and a *Jerusalem Post* editorial Friday which questioned the honesty of the decision actually taken.

The questions were raised because the 504-54 vote for change on Wednesday did not specify exactly which of the 33 articles of the covenant will be amended and indicated that an order was given to cancel them in the future by a PNC legal committee.

"The PNC has made a decision to change the covenant by cancelling it. What is left to the future is to create a new covenant," Shaath told the *Post*.

This means there exists no covenant until a new one is established, he said.

The legal committee does not have the power to decide what to cancel. It can only do what the PNC has ordered and it has ordered cancellation, he said.

The issue, he said, is not so much which articles of the old charter will be removed but which articles of the old charter will be put into a new one.

Shaath said Wednesday's proposal "was much more sweeping" than if it had mentioned specific articles.

The covenant has nine articles which are specifically anti-Israel and a 10th which is tainted, but the number of offensive articles in the opinions of different sources ranges from four to 25. Many Palestinians say there are seven. "My feeling is that there are 16 articles which are canceled," said Shaath.

The operative words of the PNC decision are that "The charter will be amended by canceling the articles contradicting the letters of recognition between the PLO and State of Israel." In a preamble it states that the PNC accepts all the agreements made by Israel and the PLO from Madrid to Oslo 2, as well as the PNC decision in Algiers in 1988 declaring a Palestinian state and UN resolutions 242 and 338.

In a further tightening of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's grip over all PLO bodies, several PLO executive committee members who were opposed or lukewarm to the Oslo accords have been replaced with Arafat loyalists. New members include Faisal Hussein, Zakaria Al-Agha, Emil Jarjoua, Ghassan Shakaa and Mohammed Nashashibi, all Arafat loyalists, and Assad Abdel-Rahman.

They replace, among others, Mahmoud Darwish and Shafiq al-Hout, who suspended their membership after Oslo.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Body found in Nahal Ayalon
The body of an unidentified man in his forties was found Friday in Nahal Ayalon, near the Halacha interchange in Tel Aviv. The body was found by a man riding a water scooter who alerted police. Police said the body had been in the water a few days. The body was sent to the Abu Kahir Forensics Institute for an autopsy. *Itm*

Boy badly burned in fire
A six-year-old boy was seriously burned in a fire that broke out yesterday morning in his Beersheba apartment, apparently caused by him playing with matches. Lorian Bajrov's parents noticed fire coming from his room in their sixth-floor apartment. They alerted firefighters, who brought the fire under control. The boy's mother suffered smoke inhalation and was brought to Soroka Hospital. The boy was put into intensive care at Soroka. *Itm*

Beduin hold protest over land
Hundreds of Negev Beduin took part Friday in a solidarity protest with the Arabin Zana tribe, which is being forced off land to make way for the expansion of Omer, near Beersheba. Omer residents also took part in the protest, calling on the authorities to stop taking land from the tribe. The rally was held in response to an incident last week in which a car with tribe members deliberately smashed into a police car, injuring three detectives. A policeman shot back and a 15-year-old Beduin boy was seriously injured in the head. *Itm*

Likud to unveil campaign jingle

SARAH HONG

AFTER Labor, the Third Way, Yisrael Ba'aliya and Shas have already revealed their new campaign jingles, it will be the Likud's turn this afternoon.

The jingle will be unveiled at the recording studio in south Tel Aviv where it was produced under the strictest security.

The musical debut will be followed by a presentation of the campaign line and strategy by information drive head, MK Lior Livnat.

The Likud's official campaign kickoff rally will take place at the Jerusalem International Convention Center tomorrow

night. The party activists will be addressed by Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan and Geshet's David Levy. The Likud's popular campaign chief, Maj-Gen. (res.) Yitzhak Mordechai will also speak, as will Jerusalem Mayor Ehad Olmert. MKs Tzahi Hanegbi and Livnat will be the emcees.

The attractions will include a laser light display, the premiere public rendition of the campaign jingle, and for the first time some of the video clips which will be featured on the Likud's TV broadcasts.

Jerusalem celebration canceled in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Strife in the Middle East and telephone threats have prompted organizers to cancel a star-studded event commemorating the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem's founding.

"A Musical Salute to Jerusalem," scheduled for May 29 at the Universal Amphitheatre, was to have featured comedians Bill Cosby and Sid Caesar and jazz virtuoso Lionel Hampton.

Rabbi Baruch Kupfer, executive director of the Maimonides Academy in Los Angeles, told Universal Amphitheatre in a letter that organizers had called off the event because it "carries serious security worries."

"As you are aware, the difficult conditions in the Middle East appear to be escalating, and the tension increases on a daily basis," Kupfer wrote. "All of the bloodshed and warfare on both sides of the Israel-Lebanon border has caused great concerns in our community."

"To keep going under such a tenuous situation we felt would be very, very risky," Kupfer said in an interview. "Given the circumstances we had to cancel or postpone."

Kupfer confirmed that "someone involved in the event had received a couple of unspecified telephone threats."

"I'd like to think it was nothing more than crank calls," he said. "But it certainly heightens the tension."

Kupfer said ticket-holders will get refunds. Virginia Wickes, who was representing Hampton for the event, said tickets had sold well even before an advertising campaign scheduled for this week.

"They weren't afraid of not selling out," she said. Wickes said Hampton was saddened by the cancellation. "He was just distraught," Wickes said. "He wants to do [the concert] when that warfare ceases."

Organizers also canceled a march of 3,000 candle-bearing children the night before the Universal Amphitheatre event. Parents had indicated they feared for their children's safety, Wickes said.

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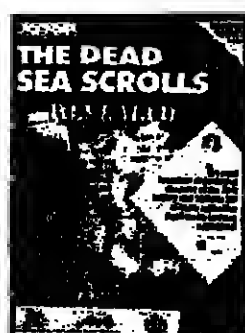
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Lotto winner is NIS 20,000,000 richer

The sole winner in last week's Lotto lottery game will come away with a check of NIS 20,000,000.

Nine people will share second prize, with each receiving NIS 48,908. Another 642 people will divide the third prize, receiving NIS 1,710 each. Fourth, fifth and sixth prizes will be shared by some 900,000 people who have won sums ranging from NIS 570 to NIS 8.

The minimum first prize for the upcoming Lotto is NIS 4 million. (Itm)

Hadassah medical delegates arrive

NEARLY 200 delegates from around the world have arrived in Jerusalem to attend the 10th congress of the Hadassah International Medical Relief Association, which opens this evening. The congress will present discussions on medicine and related subjects over the next four days. Judy Siegel